

THE
Present STATE
OF
ENGLAND
In Relation to
POPERY

Manifesting the Absolute Impossibility of Introducing
POPERY and ARBITRARY
POWER into this Kingdom.

Being a Full *Confutation* of all Fears and Apprehensions
of the Imagined Dangers from thence ;
and particularly of a Certain
Pamphlet, Entituled,

The Character of a Popish Successor.

By E. SETTLE.

LONDON,

Printed by J. Gain, for William Cademan, at the Popes-Head in the
Lower Walk of the New-Exchange, in the Strand ;
Anno; MDCLXXXIV.

THE
PRESENT STATE

OF

ENGLAND

In Relation to

POPERY

Manifesting the Absolute Impossibility of Introducing
POPERY and A RITUAL
POWER into this Kingdom.

Being a Full Confutation of all Fears and Apprehensions
of the Imagined Dangers from thence;
and particularly of a Certain

Prophecy, Entitled,

331553

The Character of a Hypocritical Swindler

By A. SETTLE.

LONDON.

Printed by A. GALT, for William Cademan, at the Pope's Head in the
Lower Walk of the New-Exchange, in the Strand.
Anno; MDCLXXIV.

TO THE Loyal GENTRY OF KENT.

Gentlemen,



WRITERS set out in Print, as Adventurers to Sea: The happy Discovery of some extraordinary Fortunate Coast the first Voyage, is an Invitation to attempt a Plantation there the next. Such was the Temptation of a New-found GOLDEN WORLD: whilst the Sails of a CORTÉZ, were only swell'd by the Prosperity of a COLUMBUS. The same Success, and the same Attraction is my Loadstar, whilst the Honour of Dedicating my First Piece, my *Narrative*, to the Worthy Sir THOMAS TAYLOR, has brought me, like a Bolder *Inmate* amongst you, resolved to plant my self, and my whole Labours in no other Soyl.

I confess indeed my own infinite Unworthiness makes my Intrusion wholly inexcusable. However that *Inmate* Goodness that ever attends the LOYAL and the BRAVE, is no little Encouragement; when I consider, that whatever my past Faults have been, yet *Clemency* and *Forgiveness*, as being the brightest Emanations of GLORY from that inexhaustible Fountain of *Mercy*, the Best of KINGS, are ever the natural Borrow'd Beams to that *Loyalty* that shines from him. A more particular Portion of which enlightning Brightness, is so justly *your own*, that a never shaken Loyalty, and an *unfalsified* Fidelity are the very Claim even of your BIRTHRIGHTS. For whatever weaker and less fortified Hearts the Growth and Progress of *Faction* may have subdued: YOU challenge that *Native* British Honour, so much of the *Heroe*, derived down from Ages to you; that the Vindication of MONARCHY and the opposing and repelling all *Republick* Arts and Machinations against the ROYAL-CAUSE, with the same *Souls* and *Resolution* that your Renowned Ancestors withstood the *Norman Army*, is but asserting your own *Hereditary* Glory of KENT, that is, of being INVINCIBLE.

The Assurance of which *Generous* Virtues born and bred with you, that *Illustrious* Genius that runs in your very *Veins*, gives me hopes, not only of obtaining your Pardon for this Presumption, but likewise your Patronage and Protection from the Slanders of my Enemies, who endeavour to intercept all Favourable Thoughts of me, and my Writings, by alleadging that I have written so *virulently* and *maliciously*, that I ought never to be trusted for a *Convert*.

The first part of their Accusation, my own guilty part, 'tis true, I own, and submit to all the Load that *Justice*, *Reproach* and *Shame* can lay upon me. But alas! am I the only Libeller never to be *Converted*, or never to be *believed* so; when some of my own Faulty Predecessours, the present Honour both of the PRESS and PULPIT, under as blackning Circumstances, have sometimes in their Lives play'd the very *Panegyrist* upon a *Criminal*. And though indeed, a *Submission* to the Government of a Rebel might come under *Self-Preservation*, yet publick *Encomiums* upon him are these *Super-errogating* Works of *Affection* and *Applause* both to the *Traitor* and the *Regicide*, which no little *Penitence* could wash off. Yet whilst not only the present Generous Arms of a *Pardoning* COURT, and the kindest Embraces of an *Endearing* CHURCH are those Royal *Credentials* of THEIR *Plenary* Conversion: with what Eyes must the World look on Me, either to find that unmalleable *Impenitency* in My Temper, or that *Hardness* of Belief in their Own.

'Tis

The Epistle Dedicatory.

'Tis probable, I confess that this following Discourse may give Distast to some of our late Members of *Parliament*, when written to convince the World that the *Church of England*, and the *Protestant Strength* of this Kingdom stand upon a **ROCK** *Immoveable*; whereas on the contrary, the *False Prognosticks* of our late *State-Wizards* have Seated them on *Bogs* and *Quicksands*, just tumbling and sinking.

However, for my Justification I have this to say; We live in a Kingdom where, Thanks to GOD, and our yet safe **MONARCHICAL** Constitution, we are in that *Temperate Region*, that (unless now and then of late in the too sultry **DOG-DAYS** of *Black-rod* and *Messenger Time*) we are only Govern'd by **LAW**. And when I find no Statute, nor one Letter of that **LAW** to make my Denyal of our Popish Dangers *Criminal*, I think I may safely with *Honesty* and *Justice* in the open Face of Day aver, that we are no more bound to believe any such Popish Dangers near us because this **TRUE PROTESTANT Sham-Patriot**, or that **PLOT-COMMITTEE**, has pronounced them *Oraculous*; than we ought to stand up for the **ALCORAN**, because this *Mufti* and that *Mussullnam* will dye for't. **POPE-RY** in *England* being that *Goblin* that is not seen by **ALL Eyes**: and it being highly *unreasonable*, because three Parts of the Kingdom have been troubled with the **JAUNDIES** and seen all things *yellow*, that therefore every Man with **SOUND HEALTH** and **BRAINS** should do so too.

For my part, I am of Opinion, that no Man with three Grains in his Skull is any more obliged to believe **OTES** his Discovery, because so Voted, the **PRESERVATION** of the Kingdom, than the *Lending the King Money*, as Voted likewise, had been the **BETRAYING** of it. Nor can I possibly fancy a *Bill of UNION*, because so adjudged (that is, the Incorporating of all sorts of **SCHISMES** down from the *Presbyter* to the *Muggletonian* into the Body of the **CHURCH**; were the way to preserve Us from **POPERY**, any more than the letting of *Pickpockets*, *Shoplifts*, and *Ruffians* **INTO** the House, were the keeping of **FELONS** and **BURGLARERS** *Out* of it.

I confess I pay as great a Respect to every Resolve in Parliament that carries **REASON**, **HONOUR**, and **LOYALTY** along with it, as every good Subject ought to pay. But I profess, if I should find, 'Resolved by this **H O U S E**, that his Majesty's Life has been twice in Imminent Danger from a certain Screw Gun, most terribly charged, once with all *Bullets* and *no Powder*, and a second time with all *Powder* and *no Bullets*; and therefore be it likewise *Resolved*, as the only Expedient for the **SAFETY** of his Majesty's Person and the *Protestant Religion* from the Danger of such bloody *Popish Assassins*, that an **ADDRESS** be made to his Majesty, that all the **MEN-WORTHY** *Papists* in Masquerade be removed from all Offices of Trust, and the *True Protestant* **WORTHY-MEN** be placed in their Room; and that a Bill be likewise brought in for the Lodging the *Militia* for *forty two* days in *Con-fiding Hands* for the King and Kingdom's **DEFENCE**. Now I say, if I should read this a thousand times over with an *Imprimatur* **W. L. WILLIAMS** in Letters of Gold, confirmed too by the Infallibility even of *Nemine Contradicente* it self, hang me if I should find out either that *Wondrous Danger* to his Majesty in the first Resolve, or that secure *Preservation* of him in the Last.

If ten thousand Resolves of Parliament should declare *Coleman's Papers* a Confirmation of **OTES** and **BEDLOES** Popish Plot for the Murder of the King, or raising Armies for cutting the **PROTESTANT** Throats. I should be sorry to think that any thing within the Pale of *Rationality* should believe it, when there is not one Syllable throughout those Papers that bear the least Tendency that way; and the whole Plot of that false Intriguer was more a Design of *French-Jesuit* **MONEY Catching**, than *French Religion*, or *French-Government Building*.

And

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And if *Bedloe* himself should rise from the Grave, and in a Conference betwixt *Prance* and him, should swear as boldly by *STYX* and *ACHERON*, as formerly they had done by the four *EVANGELISTS*, that *Sir Edmund-Bury Godfrey* was murder'd with a Pillow and Long Cravate at *FIVE* in the Afternoon in the Upper Court of *Somerset-House*, by *Walsh*, *Lephaire*, the Lord *Bellasis's* two Gentlemen, and *Mr. Atkins*, *Mr. Pepy's* Clerk: and murdered likewise the same Evening at *NINE* at night, with a twisted Handkerchief, at the Stables in *Somerset-House* Outward Court, by the Hands of *Green*, *Gerald*, *Hill*, *Berry*, and *Prance*: and if a hundred Successive *PARLIAMENTS* upon the Receipt of such a Testimony, should Resolve that a Disbelief of either of the two Relations, and a Dispute of the *VERACITY* of the two Witnesses, were a Downright Countenancing of *POPERY* and a Weakening the *PROTESTANT INTEREST*, with all the rest of the dreadful *Senate-House Anathemas* at the Tayl on't: Maugre all those Parliamentary Fulminations, I should be loth to see three honest Men in three thousand, either convinced by the Oath of the One, or terrify'd out of their Senses by the Menaces of the other.

And when I read upon *RECORD* our Swearing Master *OTES* one day upon Oath affirming, that he had no other Person to accuse of the *Papish Conspiracy* than those he had already Impeach't, and yet the next day, bringing the very Queen her self into the *PLOT* against his Majesties Life: after so damnable a Perjury from so impudent a Reptobate Varlet, Lord have Mercy upon the *STRONG FAITH* of *Three Kingdoms*, that could hang a Rat upon an Affidavit from such Lips. And Oh! the Foundation of the whole *Papish Plot*, that has no other Credentials to support it, than bare *OATHS* from such a Wretch; without one concurring Circumstance, one scrap of Reasonable Papers, Consults, Commissions, &c. of so many hundred of them all Sworn to, and all trusted in the Discoverers Hands; or the least Breath of a Confession from any one dying Malefactor. Nay, and more than all this, a Discovery too, that with such palpable Contradictions, Incongruities, and Impossibilities throughout it, is such a meer ROPE OF SAND, that not all the Craft of *MAN* or *DEVIL* can ever make *HANG TOGETHER*.

Take all this Discovery (a Prodigy which nothing but this one only Greater Prodigy the *CREDITING* of it can exceed) with some few more of its Dependencies along with it, such as that precious *HOUSE OF COMMONS* Vote, of revenging the King's Untimely Death upon the *Papists*: with the subsequent Use of that Vote, Viz. when the most Zealous *TRUE PROTESTANT* Members, the fiercest Promoters of that very Vote, were actually *Themselves* engaged in his *MURDER*, and resolved to turn their own *SHAM* into *ORACLE*, by doing the Feat with their own *Fanatical* Hands, and then Lodging the *BASTARD* at the *Papish Doors*: Take the whole *PLOT* I say, and this *Fabrick* built upon it together, and 'tis a Million to a Mile but the Foundation will at last appear as *HELLISH* as the Superstructure: and when the *Papish Plot*, thus made a Property for the *Fanatical Conspirators*, shall be duly and thoroughly examined; he that will but give himself the trouble but of Looking or Thinking, will have but too much Reason to suspect the Tool as *Infernal* as the Hands that used it.

And to give our great Witness even the fairest Interpretation of his Discovery: I know no unlikelihood why the *Regicide* and *Massacres* of *Whitebread*, *Fenwick*, *Ireland*, and the rest of them should not be of the the same piece with *Mr. Elliott's* *MAHOMETANISME* and *CIRCUMCISION*. For perish me, if I can find the least Glimpse of Reason why he that could be so cursed a Limb of *Lucifer* in his Evidence at *Drs. Commons*, should have so much *Immaculate Divinity* in his Testimony at the *Ola-Bayley*, whilst the same Breath that smelt so rank of *Sulphur* one day, should be so *Heavenly Perfumed* another.

The Epistle Dedicatory.

'Tis true, there's a sort of People will call this Discourse an **ARRAIGNING** the *Justice of the Nation*; when indeed they are wholly mistaken in the Matter. For the Justice of the Nation is safe whilst it acts by **L A W**: and therefore while the Witnesses **S W O R E** and the Jurors **B E L I E V E D**, not *Pickering* himself fell otherwise than by the Sentence of *Justice*.

'Tis true indeed as to the *English Latitude* of **B E L I E V I N G** in some Cases, *Extraordinary* Examples may be given. 'Twas but enough to cry *Halloo! Popery!* and the whole Populace of the Kingdom, as Natural **B L O O D - H O U N D S** at that Game, would certainly take the *False Scent* so readily, that there needed no more than *Look where she goes*; and the Seven-headed, Ten-horned *Babylonish Beast*, with all her *Bloody-Pilgrims*, *Black-Bills*, *Screw'd-Guns*, *Teuxbury Mustard-Balls*, &c. were all as **D I S T I N C T L Y V I S I B L E** as the *French Army* Land-ed at the Isle of *Parbeck* was to two or three whole Counties round it. And if the *Sense*, *Reason*, and *Intellects* of whole Countries together could be so grossly imposed upon as in that *Parbeck IMPOSTURE*; I know neither Law nor Gospel why it should be a Sin to averr a poor *Jury* of twelve may possibly once in their Lives be mistaken. Nay, or that the Opticks *Within* a House of **C O M - M O N S** may as possibly be no more *Accurate* than those *Without* it, it being not the first time that **R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S** have been as *Blear-Eyed* as their **E L E C T O R S**.

And considering the first *Popish* **C O N S P I R A C Y** of ever infamous Memory, made its *Approaches* and *Attacques*, and indeed gain'd its whole *Triumph* by a previous *SHAM Popish* One, as the only necessary Pipe to set the Fools of three Kingdoms a dancing after it; I know no Reason why our later **C O N S P I R A T O R S** under the same Necessity, should be less *Industrious* than their Predecessours; and therefore think it not at all an Impossibility that the *Headpiece* and *Interest* of a *Shaftsbury* should be able to pick up upon occasion, a Brace of **V A G A B O N D S** from the *Jays* and *Alms-Baskets* of three Kingdoms to twear a few **P R I E S T S** into a *Flatter*; when the same *Phanatick Faction* the last Age had a whole Set of **M E R C I N A R Y R O G U E S** at their *High COURT OF JUSTICE* ready for *True Protestant Evidences* against the very Life of **MAJESTY** it self.

But to leave the **P O P I S H P L O T** to the Hell that engendred it, the *Villains* that *Murder'd* it, the *Rebels* that *Nur'd* it, and above all, the **T A P** that *Suckled* it: that no man may think I design any Reflection upon the Constitution of **P A R L I A M E N T S**, (for though *Corruptio optimi est pessima*, and therefore nothing more detestable than *Depravity* and *Faction* in that Great **C O U N - C I L** of the **K I N G** and **K I N G D O M**) to show that no Man can have a higher **V E N E R A T I O N** of the Nation's **R E P R E S E N T A T I V E S** when **T R U L Y V e n e r a b l e**, I hope to see the Day, when those Great *State Pilots* shall make **J U S T I C E** and **L O Y A L T Y** the only Stars they Steer by, whilst **T R U T H** the *Child of TIME* shall have the Honour of Their Hands to bring it into the World; and when all our late *Popish Trash*, that long unwinnow-ed *Chaff*, shall be sifted away; and the *Security* of our Religion, and the Peace of Men's *Minds* shall be cleared from all such *Dross* and *Rubbish*: the Disquisition of Truth, being that indispensable Duty of the Nation in Parliament Assembled, that without a *Cordial* and *Impartial* Inspection and Suppression of all Factious **F R A U D S**, and all our **F O R G E D** Dangers; all the National **U N G R O U N D E D J E A L O U S I E S**, and the Violent and Fatal Effects of them lye at their **O W N** Door.

And therefore it ought to be the Prayers of all good Men for such a next Meeting of that *Illustrious* **A S S E M B L Y**, who under a true Sense of their **D U T Y**, both as *Patriots*, *Subjects*, and *Englishmen*, shall so effectually provide for the Kingdom's **S a f e t y**

The Epistle Dedicatory.

Safety, as to hang out their *Best Lights* and *Fairest Sea-Marks* to warn a poor deluded People to avoid that old Treacherous Rock, the *False Fear* of **POPERY** and **SLAVERY**, on which so lately we so fatally lpt before. And pursuant to this Work, I hope to see them so Zealous for *Truth*, and the Unvizarding of all Impostures, that they shall not only unravel the *Neeromancy* of our **SHAFTSBURIAN-PROTESTANTS**, and plainly discover that only the *Old Republick* Rump began to *Flyeblow* again; and all our Fears and Dangers from **ROME** and **POPERY** were but the *Corrupted Insects*, the *Popular-Maggots* bred in that Carrion; but likewise Retrieve the sullied Reputation of a *Derelict* Kingdom; by amending the *Headlong ENGLISH Credulity*, and using even some unhappy **RECORDS** *Themselves*, with almost as little *Mercy*, as a **NOBLE PEERS SPEECH**, or a *Fitzharris* his *Libel*, as being indeed the more *unfortunate*, though possibly, less wilful *Incendiary* of the Two. And lastly, shall do that Justice to the Memory even of the *Top Evidence* *Otes* himself, as to *Eternize* his *Due Glory* of being *Judas* his **SUCCESSOR**, only with this Difference: *Judas* of the two was the more innocent Imp of Hell. For he ingenuously took the thirty pieces of Silver as a *Ungrateful* Traytor, approach't and seized like one; and neither acted nor pretended to any other than the vilible *Villain* he was. But this profligate *Miserable* with *Guilt* of a yet deeper dye, to the blackest of *Forgery*, and most diabolical of *Murders* added the *fairest* and most painted **HYPOCRISY**, being the *Disturber* and *Enslaver* of a whole Distracted Kingdom, under the most specious Mask of the *Protector* and *Saviour* of it. Nay, and is yet the more hardened Desperado of the two: as his Face is more *Brazen'd*, and his Heart more *Steel'd*; and that he has not all this while those *Horrors* of Conscience enough about him to make him fly to the same *Medicinal Halter* of his Predecessour.

However as the Fanatick *Overfondling* and too much *Hugging* of the late *Beastly Popish Discovery* gave the Government an occasion to suspect the *True Father* of the *Dow-dye*, whilst the greatest Outcries of *Popish Dangers* being bawl'd **LOWDEST**, and almost **ONLY** from the *Geneva* Throats, warn'd us to look for the *Old Serpent* lurking under these *New Leaves*. And as accordingly, never was a more accursed Legion of threatening *Devils* rais'd than from that filthy abominable piece of *Enchantment*; inasmuch that the whole Genius of the Nation was almost all turn'd *Demoniack*: so no common Oblation of Thanks for a *National Deliverance*, are due to *Heaven*, and *Heaven's Darling Viceregent*, the **BEST OF KINGS** whose *Wisdom* and Princely *Resolution* alone stept *Boldly* and *Timely* forth to play the *Mighty EXORCIST*. Which to his never dying Glory he has performed with that wondrous *Success*, that succeeding Ages shall justly Record him in *Chronicle*, of all our Crown'd Heads the greatest *Founder* of the **CHURCH OF ENGLAND**, and even of **MONARCHY** it self, whilst the strongest *Pillar* of the First, and *Cement* of the Last has been the peculiar Work of his **OWN HAND**, *Viz.* By so great a Suppression of the dangerous *Growth* of **FANATICISM**, and this ever memorable Defeat of the *Machinations* of those most *Restless* and most *Formidable* Enemies, not only of the **MITER**, but of the **CROWN**.

Yet nevertheless as the *Popish Bugbears* are not quite vanisht, & the dying Confession of the late Traytor *Holloway* lays the greatest *Ferment* of the late damnable Conspiracy on the yet too spreading Panick Fear of **POPERT** still coming in; and indeed *Sidney* and the rest, nay *Russel* himself in his highest *Affectation* of dying Innocence still concurs in that Point, that their whole Uneasiness and Turbulency, with the intended *Stirs*, *Anglice Insurrections*, were only levell'd against that Danger: whilst in reality the Storm now seems to be a little clear'd up with them from the *Valadoly'd* and *St. Jago* Quarter, the *Pilgrim* and *Black-bill Region*; and the lowring *Popish Clouds* are now only engendring nearer home, the *Wild-House* and *White-Horse* Consults and Caballings being by the Insolent *Faction* removed, and most audaciously lodged in **WHITE-HALL** it self; considering, I say, how *Villany* and *Delusion* still retain their **POYSON**, and so many weaker Constitutions of *Fear* and *Ignorance* have no

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yet thrown off the INFECTION, this following Subject cannot come *unseasonable*. Besides, not only my *Service* to my Country, but likewise my own *Vindication* demands it of me. For since the petulant *Whiggs* are angry with so open a Defender amongst their many Sparlings against me, there's none so common with them as "Hang him Rascal he turn'd only with the Tide, and in spite of all his Recantations, "his *Papish Character* has that *sense* and *Truth* in it, that not He nor any Man will ever "be able to Answer: and in spite of his Teeth will stand a perpetual Record against the Baseness of so vile a Turncoat.

As this is the general Glamour against me, 'tis high time publicly to clear my self from that Calumny, and by engaging my Pen in a G O O D Cause, lay open the naked Impotence of a B A D One, by unravelling the false Positions throughout that feeble Pamphlet. And though indeed much better Pens than my own have long since chastized that Licentious Libel, yet 'tis absolutely necessary my own Handy-work should give it this last Stroke.

And, Gentlemen, the better to recommend it to your Patronage, I shall not spare my self a tittle, but lash my own Faults as heartily as any other severest hand would do it for me. Which Integrity in this *Treatise* makes it the more presume to throw it self at your Feet, and the Author more confidently aspire to subscribe himself,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most Humble and

most Obedient Servant,

ELKANAH SETTLE

their BOYSON, and to many weaker Constitutions of the and I have no WHITE-HALL it self; considering, I say, how Wilson and Jackson will retain Caballings being by the Insolent Faction removed, and most audaciously lodged in now only engendering nearer home, the Wild-Horse and White-Horse Constables and Yago Quarter, the Plover and Black-bill R-yons, and the lowing Popish Clouds are the storm now seems to be a little cleared up with them from the Wabado's and St. Six, Anglice Insurrection, were only levelled against that Danger: whilst in reality cuts in that Point, that their whole Lineaments and Turbulency, with the intended End the first, may reflect himself in his highest Affection of dying innocents will con- on the yet too spreading Panic fear of P O P E R Y still coming in; and indeed, Shew of the late Tyrant Holloway lays the greatest Foundation of the late damnable Conspiracy Yet nevertheless as the Popish Bugbears are not quite vanished, & the dying Confession

PERY and SLAVERY, those always *Twin Monsters*, those *Never Separable Feinds* are so painted to the Life, with all their *Fire* and *Brimstone* round them, that it has little else from the Beginning to the End but the *Ratling of Chains*, the *Crackling of Flames*, the *Blazing of Smith-Field Piles*; and in fine, the *universal Groans of Destruction and Desolation* through the whole Land.

And for an *unanswerable Demonstration* of all those most certain Calamities from a *Popish Successour*. The Character tells you, that in the first Place, the *Romish Principles* are such, *That they value neither their Word, Promise, Vows, Oaths, nor Sacraments, but all their strongest Engagements are lighter than the very Breath that utters them*. Next, *That they so little consult either their Reputation or Glory, that there is not the most Abject Thing, that ever Crown'd Heads themselves shall not undertake, when Rome, or Rome's Interest shall command*. And Lastly, *That the putting all this Barbarity into Execution, is so highly meritorious in the Romish Church, that the Pope will undoubtedly assign him no Common Diadem in Paradise for this Undertaking*. But upon his Remissness or Tenderness in this Point, bethunder him with so many *Curses and Anathemas*, as, an *undutiful, unactive Son of Holy Mother-Church*, a *Scandal to her Glory*, a *Traytor to her Interest*, a *Deserter of her Cause*; One while accusing the *Lukewarmness* of his Religion; another while, the *Pusillanimity* of his Nature, &c. till in short, *To save a Faggot in Smithfield, he does little less than walk upon Burning Irons himself*.

But how is it likely, that Rome's continual *Bless* (as the Character fancies) shall bellow so loud against a *Popish Successour* for sparing a *Faggot in Smithfield*, when under the *Infamy and Execration* of so *Tyrannical a Murderer* (for what in *Queen Mary's Days* was the Sentence of Justice, and the Legal Execution of the Law, must now be the highest *Subversion of Justice*, and *Abrogation of Law*) he must expose himself to the whole World as a greater Monster than *NERO*; so much a greater than *He*, as *Nero's Barbarities* were committed under the *Ignorance and Darkness* of *Infidelity and Paganism*, and this *Man's Murders and Butcheries* under the *Light of the Gospel*: Nay, the terrible *Burning, Broiling, and Roasting* denounced in the Character, with the *heating of Popish fiery Furnaces* like *Nebuchadnezar's seven times hotter than ordinary*, with all the rest of the *Romantick Popish Throat-cutting*, will be ten times worse to a *Popish Successour* than the whole *Ten Primitive Christian Persecutions*; for a *New Calvary*, *Domitian*, and the rest of them, as they had the *Law* in their own *Breath*, and a *Sic volo, sic jubeo*, was as much *Authentick* in old *Heathen Rome*, as an *Act of Parliament* in little *England*; and consequently, how *Barbarous* soever the *Christian Persecution* was, yet it had the *Face of Law*, as being the *Edict of the Absolute Prince*, and thereby the *Ordinance of the very Government*: But such a *Scheme of Cruelty* here, as being beyond the *Reach* of the *Prerogative*, and notoriously contrary to the *Constitution* of the Kingdom, would, *if so lucky*, be ten times more dreadfully flagitious, as is the highest *Violation of Law*, and *Dissolution of Government*. And what ever Opinion the *Popish Fools* of *Marking* may have imbibed of *Jesuitism, Popism*, and all the *Chimerical Terrours* from *Rome*, how can that very *Rome* (that pretends but to *Christianity*) that has Canoniz'd so many of those suffering *Primitive Martyrs*, at the same time likewise make *Saints* of really *bloody Murderers* amongst *THEMSELVES* than the very *Heathen Butchers* of those very *Martyrs*.

'Tis true, *Inquisition Houses* and *Lollard's Towers*, and the Cruelty of *Fire* and *Faggot* we know have been frequent; but all this while they were never erected by *Standing ARMIES*, *Arbitrary CUT-THROATS*, nor *Military EXECUTION*, but Establish'd by the *Legislative Power* of the *Respective Governments* that used them, and consequently introduced with the solemn Institution of *Law*, as a necessary Support of the Community: neither has it been a Practice singular only to the *Papists*, to secure the Establish'd Religion, and thereby the *Peace* of the Civil Government by Capital Punishments, when the *Protestant Government* has done the like.

For Example, Does not the Character instance two several Acts of Parliament; one of *Queen Elizabeth*, in which, not only the *Popish Priests*, that shall have taken Orders from *Rome*, and afterwards return to *England*, but likewise all Persons withdrawn by them from the *Protestant Religion* Establish'd, to a *Reconciliation to the Church of Rome*, are equally guilty of *High Treason*, and so suffer as in Cases of *Treason*.— And a second Act of *Henry the VIII.* In which, the *Refusal of the Oath of Henry's Supremacy*, in Renunciation of the *Pope*, was also made *High Treason*.

Now if every *Papist* in *England*, without lifting a *Hand*, uttering a *Word*, or imagining the least disloyal Thought against his *Lawful Sovereign*, his *Crown* and *Dignity*, or against the *Peace* of the Nation where he's a Subject, yet nevertheless, out of a point of *Conscience*, and meer Matter of *Faith*, cannot be induced to believe a *Temporal Prince* capable of being *Head of a Church*, but is invincibly perswaded (how erroneous soever) that the *POPE* is *Peter's undoubted Successour*, and *Christ's unquestioned Vicar* upon Earth, and cannot, without hazard of his *Soul*, so much as consent to acknowledge otherwise; yet notwithstanding, by the *Protestant Laws* of the Land, this *Invincible Persuasion*, without any other Crime, is interpreted *High-Treason*, and punish'd as such. Now I say, in this Case, what wondrous Difference is there between the Rigour of a *Popish* or a *Protestant Constitution*? This, that makes a *Defection from Their Church-Establish'd* TREASON; and the other, from *Theirs*, HERESY: This that punishes an *Apostate* with *Hanging and Quartering at Tiburn*; and the other with *Burning at Smithfield*. 'Tis true, that Branch of *Queen Elizabeth's* Statute that concerns the *Popish Layman's High-Treason* was never yet put in Execution; and I hope, for the *Glory* of the *Reformation Establish'd* by that *Illustrious Princess*, as so extremely *Sanguinary*, was never intended to be, being severe enough to give our *Popish Enemies* a Matter of Re-

But here I beg the Reader to be assured, that I urge not this Comparison in Disparagement of our Protestant Laws; but only to satisfy the *Mistaken* Part of Mankind, that all such *Judicial Severities* under the Government of both Religions have ever been introduced by the most *Awful* and *Sacred Authority* of the rightful *Law-Makers* of the Nations; and consequently in the English Constitution, not only the King's, but the Peoples *Sits* and *Decrees*; and so to convince them of the *unreasonableness* of that senseless *Surmise*, that upon the Admission of a Popish Successour, all the fore-mentioned Cruelties, though *without* any such Induction of Law (and consequently with all the Injustice, Rapine, and Cold-blooded Murder, even to that formal Solemnity of Butchery, that humane Imagination would tremble at) *must* and *shall* be introduced. For alas! how ridiculously *extravagant* must those Fears be that can addle Men's Senses into a Dread of that *prodigious* Stroke from Popery that was never given by it since the Creation. What *Magnifying Glasses* therefore must the *Popular Fears* see through, to behold such *Scrupulous* *Alarms* of Popery, as that **THAT** shall be that **NEVER** was, whilst a Popish Crown'd Head in England must be the first, nay, only Royal *Savage* of a *Popish* that ever Reign'd.

However, for once, let us suppose the *Devil* and *Pope* as familiar together as ever they were painted at a *Queen Elizabeth's* Night, and that this Gospel Propagation were really the *Doctrine* of his pretended *Infallibility*, and this *Bloody Mandate* to a Popish Successour the *special* *Edict* of the whole **CONSISTORY**, what would the Execution of that *Mandate* make towards the Growth or Advancement of Popery? God knows, so far from promoting the *Romish* Religion, that possibly there wants but that *One Attempt* to shame it almost out of the World.

For in the first place, 'tis so far from a way or means to convert even one Soul in England, that 'tis the only Course to increase their *Abhorrence* and *Execration* of that Religion, and bring the very **THOUGHT** of Popery even below *Damnation*. I would no more make *Converts* to Rome, than the old Heathen *Gallions* and *Gridirons* to *Paganism*: For as the greatest *Prejudice* of Englishmen against Popery lies in their *Horror* of the *Cruelties* of it: so consequently nothing can contribute to the *Advancement* of it but the *Clemency* and *Mercy* of its *Professours* to reconcile us even into *meer Charity* with them: whilst the Exercising of the forementioned *unexampled* *Barbarities* would make us fall from our present *ill Opinion* of Popery as a *Corrupted Church*, to believe it no Church at all, but rather an *Association* of *Monsters*, and a *Den* of *Cannibals* and *Tygers*: and the greatest Operation such *unprecedented* *Cruelty* could meet, were at best but to force the *frighted* People into a *superficial*, *counterfeit* *Compliance*; and make them *Temporize* a little, only to compound for their *Lives*; yet that *Temporizing* under so *Villanous* a *Persecution*, would be so far from a *True Conversion*, or any thing like it, that they'd only play the *Highest* of *Hypocrites*, come perhaps to *Mass* to mutter *Curses* instead of *Ave-Mary's*; or be hunted into the *Popish Fold*, only to pray for a favourable *Opportunity* of having a pull at the *Throats* of the *Wolves* that drive them thither.

And Secondly, Besides the *Impotent Effects*, 'tis certain to find towards the *Heretick Conversion*: the *Pope's Command*, nay indeed, *Connivance* at any such *Arbitrary*, *Tyrannick* *Stake-burning*, or *Throat-cutting* from a *Popish Successour*, instead of *advancing* of Popery by so *eccentrick* a *Motion*, will be enough to stagger half the *Popish Hearts* in *Christendom*; for as *Implicit* as the *Faith* of the *Romish Zealots* is, and as intirely devoted as they are to their *Peter's Chair*, and *Mother Church*, undoubtedly there are *Thousands* of them, that notwithstanding they can digest a *Waser* for a *GOD*, can never be wrought to believe the *Transubstantiation* of such visible *Tyranny* and *Butchery* into *Righteousness* and *Christianity*, how *Zealous* soever they may be for the *Conversion* of so *Heretical* a Nation as *England*.

And that this would be the *Infallible* *Consequence* of all such *Barbarous* *Popish Measures*: they that will but look back to the *Annals* of *Queen Mary*, will find *Historians* telling us, That nothing so much advanced the *Reformation* as the *Mistaken* *Conduct* of *Queen Mary* and her bloody *Counsellors* in that Point. And Dr. *Burnet* expressly assures us, That the whole *Body* of the *Nation* grew to dislike the *Cruelty* of *Rome*. [Abridg. Book the 3d. Pag. 275.] to that degree, that the *Popish Bishops* for their *Apology*, threw it off from *Themselves*, and openly laid it on the *King's* and *Queen's* *Commands*; insomuch that *King Philip*, for his *Edenise*, made his *Confessour* preach a *Sermon* at Court against the taking of Peoples *Lives* for their *Opinions* in Religion, and inveighed against the *Bishops* for doing it. By which means a *stop* was put to it for some time. But nevertheless, as the same *Severity* soon after return'd again, he tells us all along, That the *Nations* *Dislike* of it was *Universal*, and the repeated *Acclamations*, and universal *Transport* of Joy at the *Proclaiming* of *Queen Elizabeth* proceeded from the *People's* *Hopes* of better *Days* under Her *Scepter* than her *Sister's*. By which it appeared how weary the *Nation* was of the *Cruel* and weak *Administration* of *Affairs* under the former *Reign*. And the Joy in this Change (he says) was so *Great* and *Universal*, that but a *Sad Look* was thought *Criminal*.

So that to ballance Cases, if the *Severity* of *Burning* of two hundred and sixty *Protestants* in *Queen Mary's* *Five Years* *Reign* under the *Legal Sentence* of the *Then Law* of the *Land*, and in that *Respect* by the *Hand* of *Justice*, begat such a *Hatred* of *Popery*, and made so many *Converts* to the *Reformation*, that possibly 'twas one of the *Greatest* *Lifts* to the *Downfall* of the *Romish Religion* in *England*; insomuch that 'tis the *Opinion* of all wise Men, that a *Bonner* and a *Gardiner* did more towards the *Propagation* of the *Protestant Religion* than a *Cranmer* and a *Ridley*. How much infinitely more therefore must the Exercise of such *Popish Cruelties* from the *Hand* of the most *Arbitrary* *Tyranny* under the visible *Monstrous* *Face* of the most notorious *Illegality*, and the

Profelytes to their Cause, heap up but fuel for the Popish, not Protestant Confusion: and so at best, this Arbitrary Bloody Tyranny can have no higher prospect than of committing Murders for meer Murders sake.

But to silence all Dangers of such stupendious papal Excesses. This barbarous Model of Gospel Propagation is at this present Age of the World wholly unpractised in all the Popish Nations in Europe, and excepting the Spanish Inquisition (and that too, seldom rigorous against any but the Open Seducers of the People from their Religion, to prevent the Disturbance of the settled Peace of the Kingdom under so general and unanimous a Conformity of the Roman Religion in Spain) There is now no Popish Government whatever, that proceeds against Heresy with fire and fagot, or any other Sanguinary Punishment; whilst on the contrary, the Reformers are more or less Indulged or Tolerated through almost all the Popish Kingdoms in the World; though 'tis true, that Indulgence or Toleration in the publick Exercise of their Religion is sometimes more enlarged, and other times more curtail'd, according to the more or less generous Temper of the Respective Kings that grant them; which though magnified at a prodigious rate by the present Dreaders of Popery, such as the Tender-hearted Gondoliers of the true Protestant Dissenter Count Tokely &c. is no more than what is daily done even by Protestant Princes in the same Nature, whilst the Immunities and Privileges of all Dissenting Perswasions against the Establish'd Religion of the Land, as being but the Donation of the Governments Discretion and Charities, are increased, or diminished, as the Favour of the Sovereign shall extend, or the Policy of the Nation shall require.

However, as all Sanguinary Persecutions of Heresy are now so universally left off, and that too, considering the Popes Influence over the Royal Soms of his own Church, undoubtedly with his own Privy and Consent: 'tis certain, that both He and his Crown'd Heads are by Experience convinced of the fatallity of such Rigorous Ecclesiastick Extremities, as wholly ineffectual to the Great Work Designed, the Intended Propagation of Religion. And consequently, the Pope must be strangely out of his Right Senses, to put a Popish Successour, and that in England, of all the Countreys of the Universe, upon a Projection so long out of Fashion in all the World beside; nay, and to a more monstrous height of Extravagance (as being positively against any Law or Right whatever) than was ever practised in the World before.

Nevertheless, laying Policy, Prudence, nay, Common Reason aside; for once, we'll dispense with all manner of Incoherencies and Absurdities whatever, and put the Supposition, That the Pope should be stung with that strange Tarantula, as to begin this stentorian Denee, and a Popish Successour, that Manum, to follow him. The next Question that arises, will be, How he shall set this Arbitrary Machine going? And which way he shall find Hands, Tools, and Materials to build this Terrible COLOSSUS, called Arbitrary Power. 'Tis true indeed, the Character tells us the way of doing it, as follows: *Let us but rightly consider how far the Foundations of Popery (Viz. Arbitrary Power) may be layd in England. First then, if a Popish Reign, we very well understand that the Judges, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, and all the Judiciary Officers are of the King's Creation. And as such, how far may the Influence of Preferment in Base Constitutions called out for his purpose, dre vail even to deprave the very Throats of Justice his self, and make our Judges use even our Protestant Laws themselves to open the First Gate to Slavery. Alas! the Laws in corrupted Judges Hands, have been so often used as barbarously as the Galleys of Procrustes, who had a Bed for all Travellers, but then he either cut them shorter, or stretcht them longer to fit them to it.* And after all this, the Character proceeds, and tells you, that to crown the Work, and make the Pope Absolute, this Popish Successour wants a STANDING-ARMY, and he shall have it, &c.

This True Blow Protestant Scheme of Introduction for Arbitrary Power, by the way of distorting of our very Protestant Laws to bring it in, the History of the Popish Plot only excepted, is one of the most Comical Whimms that was ever invented. I confess indeed some intricate Cases in *Mum* and *Tum* may occur, where the most Impartial Judges may be divided in their Opinions, even in *Matter of Law*, and the diversity of various, and almost absolute *Reverds* and *Statutes* in several lesser *Law-Matters* may sometimes admit of Disputes & diverse Interpretations, and a corrupt Judge under such a Latitude, may lean or turn as Inclination shall guide. But that part of our English Law that concerns our Religion and Liberties, the long and labour'd Work of so many Successive Parliaments; nay, and after the very Lopping of the Prerogative to secure the Subject by the Abolition of *Oaths ex Officio*, *Star-Chamber Courts*, *Court of Wards*, and by the Benefit of *Habeas Corpus* Acts, &c. the continued Care and Industry of our *Law-makers* for a hundred years together, stands so strongly fortified against all *Romish* or *Arbitrary* Invasions, that there's not the least Cranny in the Law left open for the Admission of the One or the Other. However, this part of the Character was very well timed for the Season 'twas (writ in) For when the very Protestant Clergy and Bishops of the Land, the whole Court, nay and the KING himself not excepted, were all helter skelter, just upon being turn'd into downright Papists in Masquerade, 'twas not at all unseasonable to improve upon the Fiction, and bring in the Protestant Laws too in the Crowd for Popish Masqueraders among their Fellows.

However, notwithstanding this Pretended Dangerous Inten to Arbitrary Power, the Character, by a certain Fault which I have read in a *Treatise*, called *Richard and Bartet*, (a Figure of Speech much used by that Eloquent Divine, and truly much borrow'd in the Character, being little else throughout) makes bold in another place point Blank to contradict this Passage, and positively affirms, *That to set up Popery or Arbitrary Power by Law, whilst the Laws we have already against them, is wholly impossible, and that our Laws will be but the Helms to keep in the Church.* For Papists

and Slaves we must and shall be made, as the inseparable Concomitants of a Popish Successor. And to prove all this Breaking of all Laws whatever, it says in *hec verba*:

How can the Force of Laws made by a Protestant Predecessor, and a Protestant Parliament, in any sort bind a Popish Successor? When the very first Advance of the Pope's Supremacy [a very nimble leap] introduces that higher Power, those Canonical Ecclesiastick Laws, which no Secular, nor any other Temporal Court can or may Controul. Laws that shall declare, not only the Statutes and Acts of Parliament made against the Dignity of Mother Church, void and null, but the very Law-makers themselves, as Hereticks, wholly incapable of ever having any Right of making any such Laws. No doubt then, but that Fire that burns those Heretick Law-makers, shall give their Lawgivers the same Martyrdom.

Here indeed the Affairs are alter'd, and truly, the Matter much mended. This I confess, says the Character, and this, at least three parts of the Fools of English Mankind believe for Oracles. And though all our Records, Histories, Chronicles, and the whole Series of all Ages since the Conquest to this day, do notoriously prove the Contrary: yet this Popular Maxim, That the Romans by their Ecclesiastick Laws, pretend to annul and make void all Secular Laws against their Church, and to incapacitate the very Prerogative and Authority of that Majesty, and those Law-makers that made them, though one of the most Impudent Falshoods in nature, is nevertheless one of the most received Vulgar Traditions that ever startled Idiots.

For Example, to begin with their very Heretick Combustion: The very *Ar and Bases of Rome*, was it not an Act of the Secular Power? In the very highest Reign of Popery, did, or could the Pope punish an Heretick Apostate by Imprisonment, Fire or Faggot, any further than by Parliamentary Permission, and excepting that the Clergy were made Judges of Heresy, and that too, by concession of the Secular Authority: Was not the Execution of that Law kept in Temporal Hands?

Nay, though 'tis true, the papal Power made many Usurp'd Encroachments here, through the Bigotry of the Government: yet, upon too hard Pressures from Rome, did not several of our Kings many hundred years before the Reformation, resume their own Original Right, and expressly in the Statute against PROVISORS under Penalty of Forfeiture of Goods, and Imprisonment for Life, forbid the admitting of the Popes Legatine Power in England, or making Appeals to Rome, or taking Inductions to Episcopal Sees from the Pope:

And for Queen Mary her self, was there one Syllable of the Law Enacted by her Father Henry, or her Brother Edward in favour of the Reformation, that she ever pretended to Over-rule by any Ecclesiastick Law or Pretence whatever? Nay, and did not the Pope's Supremacy itself, and that not till many a hard tug, and two years after she came to the Crown, come in by Act of Parliament, under several Limitations of his Power, with the Confirmation of the antient Statute against Provisors, &c. and several other Boundaries, as much as to say, *Move thus far, and no further*.

But alas! what's all this to the Author of a Popish Character? Popery and Arbitrary Power in Spight of Fate, shall and must be set up. And therefore what Laws shall, or shall not get uppermost, is ene as Mr. Scribler pleases. For truly *Quilix* put pen to paper, and *Temperant Reason* were never minded: and indeed, there was no need of either of them; for as that Pamphlet had the honour in the Title-Page, of being humbly offered to the Consideration of the then HOUSES of Parliament, both Truth and Reason were I material to its Recommendation: Not where an Obedient Narrator pass for Gospel, the Devil's in't, if a Popish Character could miscarry.

However, to confute that senseless Fear, that a Popish Successor will subvert the whole Foundations of the Government, and erect his own Arbitrary Edict, for the Supreme Standard of JUSTICE, and that he shall find those Popish Judges, Sheriffs, or any other Officers and Ministers, that under the Protection of a Standing Army, shall make our Lives and Liberties wholly dependant upon the Capriccio and Pleasure of the Prince, and pursuant thereto, shall furnish him with Fagots, Gibbets, and Smithfield Piles, or any other Arbitrary, though less sanguinary Persecutions to convert us to Popery.

First, let us examine the Courage of all these Arbitrary Judges, Officers, and Secret Ministers that embarque in this Arbitrary Undertaking. They must be all those hard popish Tools, whether corrupted by Zeal or Interest, that they must not value all their own Lives, for notwithstanding whatever Protection or Impunity they may receive during the Life of their Royal Popish Driver; no sooner shall the next Protestant Heir succeed him, but every Mother's Son of them shall be answerable with their Necks, for the least drop of Protestant BLOOD they have shed, or Protestant Liberty they have invaded. The Protestant Laws of the Land will not be so tamely overthrown, without a certain Vengeance attending it; inasmuch that those bold Babel Builders, these Arbitrary Popery Rascals, must either be so generous to their King as the Indian Wives to their Husbands, and make one glorious Funeral Pile upon his Grave; or else resolve to live to offer up their Throats to the very Sword of Justice in the Hand of a Lawful Authority, which themselves before have so unlawfully abused in their own.

And that the Liberty of the Subject is so tender in the Eyes of the English Government, the very misusing and torturing of Hereticks in Prison, though under that *moderata* liable to the most ignominious of Deaths, and though done in a Popish predecessor's Reign, was sufficient to have taken the great Statesman Bannet's head off, but only that Queen Elizabeth's Government interposed, as unwilling to stain the beginning of her Reign with Blood in Reformation. And now, what more violent Irruptions of Arbitrary Rapines against the unalienable Liberty of the Protestant Subject, now laid down upon the bold Invaders Heads.

'Tis no difficult matter to possess the *overcredulous* World, the *easy* swallowing Multitude, with what wondrous Achievements the Zealors of Popery shall undertake, and what indefatigable Labours and Hazards they will go through for the Re-building of their *Fallen* Temples, when animated and influenced by a Popish Sovereign.

I acknowledge 'tis true) there is no Courage more daring than that which *Zal* inspires; and no Zeal possibly more violent than that of the Papists, and undoubtedly for *Rome's* Restoration, there would be many venturous and bold Champions amongst them in so *Admirable* a Cause.

But alas! every *Heroe* is not a *Samson*. There are, no doubt, those of them that would spare neither pains nor study to propagate their own Religion, though never so indirectly; those possibly that would have it in their Power (if they could come handsomely by it) to use their Heretick *Adversaries* with as little Mercy as *HE* did his *Protestant* Enemies; but alas, not with his hardihood, as like *Him*, to pull down that Roof upon their Heads to their own inevitable Destruction only to have the pleasure of crushing some of *US* with them.

We read, I confess, that *pro* *Law* & *Force* men will venture far. Yes truly, for their Religion and *Estates* together they will do so. But in the Popish Case, where the *Founding* of the *Dut* will be the *Destruction* of the *Other*; where the *Serving* up of their Religion, will be the Forfeiting not only their *Estates*, but *Heads* too; 'tis more than a hundred to one, betwixt these two so directly opposite Interests, but that the keeping of their *Shin* and *Bones* warm on the one side, may make their Zeal a little the cooler on the other. For let me tell you, where the Erecting of the Altar will at long run make the *Builder* the *Sacrifice*, in all humane probability that Popish Temple will go but slowly up, whose Stones are to be dug out of so fatal a *Quarry*.

'Tis very remarkable in *Queen Mary's* Reign, when by the Majority of her Parliament, the Protestant Religion then but in its *Infancy* was abolish'd, and the *Romish* Government and Papal Supremacy Re-establish'd; and indeed the Grandure of *Rome* even to *Heretick* *comburendi* maintain'd. Yet that *Parliament* that had it absolutely in their power to gratify the *Pope's* *utmost* Wishes, refused the returning his *Church-Lands* again.

Nay, the Parliament were so averse to the thought of such a Restitution, that they had never been wrought up to the restoring of the very Supremacy it self, and of making of all those favourable Acts towards the re-installing of *Popery* again, but by much pains used (as *Burnet* in his *Abridgement*, pag. 268 says) by the policy of *Bishop Gardiner*, to ensure the Kingdom from the Fear of coming under such Tyranny from *Rome* as their *Ancestors* had groined under, and likewise from the Loss of the *Abbey-Lands*. Inasmuch that *Gardiner* promised them for Removal of all such Jealousie, that all the old Laws against *Provisions* should continue in Force, and to shew them that *Legates* should exercise no dangerous Authority in *England*, he made *Pool* take out a License under the *Great Seal* for his *Legatine* Power; and for the other, *Viz.* the *Abbey-Lands*, he promised both an Act of Parliament and *Confirmation* confirming them, and undertook that the *Pope* himself should ratify the *Alienation* of the *Church-Lands*; which, *History* tells us, was accordingly done.

Nevertheless, as this Papal *Dispensation* came very unwillingly from *Rome*, being only a Forced Compliance and *Tesporizing* with the English *Obstinacy* in that point. The Queen her self restored all the *Church-Lands* in her Possession, and proceeded so far as to the Re-building of several Religious Houses, declaring to her *Treasurer* and some of her other *Officers*, that she thought her self bound in Conscience to restore all the *Church-Lands*, as being unlawfully acquired, and not to be held without a *Sine*. (as *Hooker* in his *Chronicle* tells us) Nay, the *Pope* himself set out a *Bull*, excommunicating all that kept any Lands belonging to *Abbeys* or *Churches*; which gave such an Alarm to the Nation, that *Gardiner* was forced to pacify them, by telling them, that *Bull* was intended only to the *People* of *Germany*, and not *England*. However, the *Pope* continued his high Resentments against the Undutifulness of *England*, that he could not forbear telling the Queen's *Ambassadors*. (*Abridg.* pag. 221.) That it was beyond his power to confirm *Sacrilege*, and all were obliged, under the pain of Damnation to restore to the *last* *Earthling* every thing that belong'd to the *Church*; he said likewise, that he would send over a *Collector* to gather the *Peter-pence*; for they could not expect that *St. Peter* would open Heaven to them, so long as they denied him his Rights upon Earth.

Yet all this made so little Impression on the *Conscience* of *England*, that whatever Conscience might dictate, their Priests innuend, their *Popish* *Scurrilous* *Solitors*, or their *Pope* himself endeavour, so powerful was Interest above Conscience, and all other *Motives* whatever, that several of the *Commons* in *Parliament* lay'd their hands on their Swords, and declared that they would not part with their *Estates*, but defend them. And every Motion that way, was always carryed in the Negative. (*Abridg. of the Reformation*, B. 3. pag. 309.)

Now, pray, for once, let us compare Cases. If the *Papists* in her Reign, with the highest Papal Dominion and Sovereignty in their own Hands, under an *Establish'd* *Roman* Church, against both their Priests and their Prince; nay, a Prince too, with her *Heretick* under her Feet, and her Religion in the very Saddle, could refuse both their *Pope*, and their *Popish* *Successor* so full and so sacred a Right, and so important to his Church's Interest, and that too, when with all Safety round them, they might have confirm'd their Oblation even by the strongest Bonds of Law; so on the other side, how shall it be suppos'd that the more *moderate* *Papists* in our Age, in the quite contrary extrem, shall gratify the unjust Demands of a more *Impetuous* *Popish* *Successor*, under the lowest Ebb of Popery against all Law or Pretence of Law whatever, by launching out into the most notorious Violation

Violation of all the highest sanctions of Right and Justice, and the most *oppressed* Tyranny and most impudent Barbarity in the world, and all (forsooth) for the *Establishing* of Popery; and all, God wot, too little for the Work; and this too, to the running themselves into unavoi dable Jails and Gallies; and not only to the running of their Estates, but to the cutting off of the Lives of themselves, and even the very *RACE* of Papists under the next immediate Crown'd Head that succeeds.

Besides, as boldly as the Roman Zealots stand up for the Interest and Dignity of Mother Church, and the Grandure and Dominion of their Peter's Successour, not only the Papists, but the very Priests themselves are not so *overcourageous* in this Cause as the World suspects them. For Instance, in Henry the Eighth's Reign, the whole Clergy of England, by a State-surprise upon them, were found guilty of a *Premunure*, by submitting to Cardinal Woolsey's Legantine power, as derived only from the Pope's Authority, and thereby expressly against the Statute of *PROVISORES*, an old dormant Law, made several King's Reigns before, though rarely, or never put in Force, by reason of the Remissness of the Government, and the Supineness of the Nation and Kings Submission to Rome, and therefore unwarily transgressed by the Clergy now. By virtue however of which they had forfeited their Goods and Chattels to the King, and their persons to be imprisoned. Upon the King's Menace of executing which Law (*Reformat. Book the 2d. pag. 112.*) the Convocation of Canterbury, in tenderness to their Skins and Estates, brought a Petition to his Majesty, acknowledging him in the Title, Protector, and Supreme Head of the Church and Clergy of England. Which was agreed to by nine Bishops, 82 Abbots, and the majority of the Convocation in the Province of Canterbury, praying him to accept of 100000 l. in lieu of the Punishments incurred. And the Province of York soon afterwards consented to the same Submission, with the Offer of 18840 l. for obtaining the same pardon.

Infomuch that we find the very popish Clergy themselves so servilely compounding for their Damnamon, and their Carrattes (not so much in the Voluntary Tribute of their Purses) as with the Renunciation of the Pope's Ecclesiastical Supremacy, the very brightest Jewel in the Tripple Diadem, and consequently by this sordid Compliance, even the Priesthood itself by their own leading Act, gave the fatal Original precedent to the succeeding Act of Parliament to confirm that Supremacy in the Crown, and so struck the first main Blow towards the shaking of the Romish Prerogative in England, and thereupon Conspired to the greatest part of the ensuing Fatalities to their Religion itself.

And therefore, if the Ecclesiastical Sons of Rome could ward themselves from the Stroke of Law due to that less Capital Transgression *THEY* by denying their very Pope: Why must the Sons of Rome be so prodigiously Fool-hardy *NOW*, as to run themselves into a more Dangerous and more mortal Noose of Law for his Vindication.

'Tis very easie preaching to Fools and Madmen (as the popish Character has very Rhetorically done) what miraculous Fire and Faggot Feats, or other Arbitrary Extravagancies the wonderful Papists under a popish Successour shall do. But as great a *Deny* as the Romanists make of their Keeper of the Keys of Heaven, as the Devil (speaking of Job) makes answer to God Almighty, put forth thine hand, and touch him in all that he hath; and he will curse thee to thy Face. So let his Holiness put these Zealots upon that *Hard Task*, where their Necks are sure to stretch in the Service, and Obedience will be so little a part of the Sacrifice they make his Divinityship in such a Command, that all his Bell, Book, and Candle will be too little to conjure up half hands enough for so ungrateful and so cursed an Employment. Whatever pleasure they may take in bringing us to Stakes and Gibbets, they are not overfond of Martyrdom themselves. And though Great is their *DIANA* of Ephesus, whilst *Paul* and *Satyr* go along with her, and upon Reasonable Terms, much might be done to exalt her; yet there's that Universal Charm in that thing call'd *OUR ALL*, and that strange superseding Quality in those potent Operations, Bell, and Self-persecution, that it over-rules the highest Executions even of the most daring Zeal, and the very biggest Devils of Outrage and Tyranny are laid by no other Spell.

But perhaps it may be objected, That to encourage the bold Labourers in this Harvest, this popish King, to prevent the Ruine both of his Cause and his Party, will take Care, in case of a protestant Heir, to divert the Succession, and continue the Crown upon some other popish Head; and so by a longer Usurpation of this Arbitrary Supremacy, and a more lasting Persecution of the Protestants, provide as much as in him lyes, that the propagation of the Romish Faith may be compleated in succeeding Ages, upon so good a Foundation lay'd in his Own.

This foolish Supposition is so lewdly ridiculous, that there's scarce a shadow for such a Fear. For (alas) there will be so little Hopes of a popish Usurper's mounting the Throne, after so notorious a Tyranny under a Lawful popish King before him, as nothing can scarcely be more impossible. 'Tis possible indeed, the Duty of our Christianity, and the Bond of Passive Obedience, as having the Lawful Power of no other Weapons but our Prayers and Tears against the Tyranny of our Lawful Prince, may tie up our hands, and keep us in the Bounds of Peace and Resignation during his Reign. But the setting up of a popish Usurper after him, in wrong to the Imperial protestant Right Heir, will undoubtedly ingage all the Protestant Hands and Hearts against so impudent an Invader, (and if Occasion require, his Protestant Royal Neighbours in such a Cause) whilst the taking

up Arms in such a Quarrel, which had been *Rebellion* against his Predecessor before, would be the work of their highest Duty and Allegiance now. And as the Remembrance of their past Take to all true English Spirits, would certainly double Edge their very Swords; so, in so just a Cause, 'twould infallibly spur them to so perfect, and so unanimous a Revenge, as to cut off their popish Enemies even to the last Man. Now what popish Usurper shall venture to pass such an Ordal to a Throne? Or what hopes a popish King can have of such a Successor, or of accomplishing his own popish Designs on such a Basis, let common Reason judge.

And therefore the Pope must have a very little *Paternal Care* of his Royal Son of Rome, and indeed of all his Catholic Sons in England, as to embark them in a Cause so apparently *Destructive*, whilst by misleading them into such sanguinary, illegal Cruelties against the Protestants, and all for an impossible Conversion of a Nation, he runs his own darling people, Root and Branch into an inevitable Fate under the next Protestant Successor, exposed not only to the highest popular Swords and Fury, but even to Cords and Axes, and the severest Stroke and Vengeance of Law it self. But possibly their Fate shall not wait so long as the next King's Coronation, but overtake them in the first Onset of their popish Barbarity. For let us but look back to the Gun-powder Treason, a Plot where Faux's Powder-Barrels were neither like Otis his Teuxbury Mustard-Balls, nor his Black Bills, Insublime. A Plot too, where the Conspirators dyed not Tongue-tied, but confessed their Guilt, without that wonder-working Dispensation of asserting a Counterfeit Innocence, to the stretch of their Salvation, and Renunciation of their God, on the very Brink of Eternity. Let us look back, I say, to the Discovery of that Plot: and History informs us, that 'twas as much as the King, Court and Government could possibly do to restrain the people's Rage from Butchering all the Papists in England, the Guilty and Innocent together in the Revenge of so barbarous a Machination, though unexecuted; tho by Providence detected and frustrated. And if the Genius of England was so highly exasperated, and so furiously transported in Zeal for their Prince's and their Representative's Danger, though past and escaped. What Security shall the Pope, or his popish Successor promise themselves, that the people's Zeal for their own Dangers Approaching, will not be as much transported too. And that the Eruption of Smithfield Fires, with the dragging of their Fathers, their Wives, their Children, or their Kindred (and possibly their own Turn next) to a popish Stake, will not equally, if not more violently inflame them into as great, or greater Outrages than the Gun-powder Plot could do.

But whether this certain Ruine should pursue these Arbitrary popish Instruments either sooner or later, and that it were really possible these, or any other Illegal popish Measures might give us some Trouble and Disturbance during this popish Monarch's Reign. How wretched a piece of Work must the Wisdom of the Pope and the whole Conclave undertake, to make Popery and Arbitrary Power under a popish Successor, those Feeble Serpents that shall but just bite our Heels to provoke our succeeding Vengeance to crush their Heads.

In the second year of Queen Mary, after the Repeal of King Edward's Laws, but before the Restoration of the Pope's Supremacy, we are told in the History of the Reformation: (Abridg. B. 3. pag. 253.) of a project proposed by the Spanish Ambassador to the Queen, of assuming the power of a Conqueror, and ruling at pleasure; by which she might restore both the Religion and the Abbey-Lands, and be under no Restraint. This she communicated to her Chancellor Gardiner, and charged him to give her his Opinion of it sincerely, as he would answer to God for it at the last day. He read it carefully, and told her it was a most pernicious Concoction, and begged her not to listen to such Platforms which might be brought her by base Sympothants. Upon that she burnt the Paper, and charged the Ambassador to bring her no more such projects. This gave Gardiner great Apprehensions of the Mischiefs that Spanish Councils might bring upon the Nation: and so he procured the Act to be made; by which the Queen was bound by the same as much as her Ancestors were.

Now if that Bloody popish Zealot Gardiner was so violently averse to the Thought of bringing Arbitrary power into England, for what Service soever to the Romish Cause, as in his Opinion so most pernicious; when at the same time the Majority, or Half of the Nation at least were of that persuasion. And if popish Standing Armies could have done the Feat, they were ten times easier to be rais'd for any Arbitrary popish purpose than; especially too, when the Queen lay in the Bosom of that potent Spanish Husband, (witness his Invincible Armada soon after against Queen Elizabeth) that could have lent her a very considerable helping Hand from Foreign Assistance to push on the project, had her English Strength been Insufficient. Now I say, if nevertheless the Design was deem'd so pernicious then, what popish State Councillors at this time of day will run their own and their Prince's Fingers so far in the Fire, as to advise him to any such Arbitrary Projection now, under so low a Mantle of Popery, that scarce the 200th. part of the Nation are of that Religion, and therefore infinitely more pernicious than in Queen Mary's Case, and consequently, which nothing but the most abandon'd Lunacy can ever pretend to advise or attempt.

'Tis true indeed, the popish Character lays down a most Expeditious Method of raising this dreadful Standing Army, that are to accomplish the mighty Feat of Popery and Slavery under a Romish Successor; which for the Reader's Diversion take as follows.

To make the Pope Absolute, there wants a Standing Army; and he shall have it. For who shall hinder him? Nay, all his Commanders shall be qualify'd even by our present Protestant Test for the Employment. He shall have enough Men of the Blade out of one half of the Gaming Houses in Town, to Officiate twice as many Forces as he shall want. 'Tis true, they shall be Men of no Estates nor Principles

ples. But they shall fight as well as those that have Both. For people are ever as Valiant that have their Fortunes to raise, as those that have them to defend: Nay, of the two they shall be the more Faithful. For they have no Property to be concern'd for, and will more zealously serve him, by Reason their whole Interest and Estates lye in Him. And that this Army may be more quietly raised, how many honourable Pretences may be found? Perhaps the greatest and most important Preservation of his Kingdom shall call for it: and then upon second Thoughts, instead of defeating some Foreign Enemy, they are opportunely ready to cut our Throats at Home, &c.

This Projection I confess is the only passage through the whole Character, that endeavours to make out the possibility of any part of the numerous popish Mischiefs denounced through the whole Pamphlet. For all along it absolutely supposes the power of a popish Successour's doing whatever he pleases; and after so fallacious a *Petitio principis*, it leaps over all Mountains in the way, and only labours to prove the Depravity of a popish Successour's Tyrannical Inclinations, and give him the Will of putting that power into Execution.

But to examine the Depth of this Projection, granting such a Set of Atheistick Officers could be found; what then must their Army be? Here's a Foreign Invasion, or some other Honourable Cause proposed, and an Army raised for that seeming Intent and Purpose: an Army of papists they cannot be, for there is not 40000 Men, Women, and Children of that persuasion in the whole Kingdom, and consequently, far short of 10000 Fighting Men amongst them all; and possibly, not one half of them neither, such Foolhardy Desperadoes, as to hazard their Lives so madly and so extravagantly in so unpromising a Cause, so unaccomplishable a Design as Subjecting of England by the Hands of the papists. So that an Army of Papists can be no part of a popish Successour's Thoughts.

And that the number of the papists in England is really no Greater. The King's Indulgence formerly to those of that Religion, in gratitude for their Loyal Endeavours at Worcester; and indeed through all his Fathers Distresses; has been so far from putting them to the Shifts of Disguises or Concealment of their Perswasions, that before the late wakening of the Laws against them, the papists were every where as visible; and generally as distinguishable from the rest of Mankind as one Sex is from another; insomuch that (unless their Numbers have increased by Converts made since the popish Discovery, and the Execution of the Statutes against them) there's scarce one papist in England; that all his Neighbours round him cannot particularly point at. And how thin sown those Papists are, is notoriously manifest, when in many and many a ten Parishes together in England there is not three Papists, and the whole number computed through the Nation, scarce the 200th. Man of that Perswasion. Notwithstanding there have been many Fanatical Pretensions of wonderful popish Dispensations; by vertue of which, there are at least thirty or forty thousand Church-papists as some old Oliverian Rebels shall tell you, tolerated by the Pope to an Absolute Protestant Uniformity, and ready upon occasion, to show themselves in their proper Colours. The Villany of which Damnable Falshood is sufficiently apparent, from the forementioned Indulgence. For why such a Dispensation? Why a playing the basest of Hypocrites, and Bantring with Religion, Sacraments, nay, GOD himself; (as such a Dispensation is no less) when under so universal an Impunity, there was not the least Occasion for it? There's a natural Pride in all Religions to own their own Principles; and no Man, like St. Peter, denies his Master, unless, like him too, under some Apprehension of Danger in Denying him. And therefore these papal Dispensations must be the Second Part of One of his Commissions, and nothing but the Restless Malice of Schisme, and the Diabolical Spirit of Rebellion can raise so false an Alarm of popery, and bugbear the Ignorant Rabble by so vile and so cursed an Imposture.

But to return to our Standing Army. An Army of Papists is not to be had; and an Army of Atheists is as unferzible as the other. For whatever dissolute Debauchees might possibly be culled out (as the Character tells you) of no Religion nor Principles, for a few particular Officers; the whole Gros of an Army of the same Stamp is not in rerum Natura. For if a popish Successour will have an Army of English-men, he must take them as he finds them, the loose and poorer sort of Rabble, the Bore and Peasant, the Refuse of the Shop and the Plough, which are ever the Composition of Armies in a Kingdom not so extraordinary peopled as England, and these must be the Hands that this popish Successour must raise for his Standing Armies. And if so, how far the Genius of the Commonalty of England lyes towards such a popish Undertaking, and this No-popish Army shall push on to these All-popish Designs, is worthy our Consideration.

Here's an Army expressly rais'd for a Foreign Invasion, or the like; and on the quite contrary, intended to cut our own Throats at home; rais'd for the Kingdom's preservation, & used for its down-right Destruction; and all this, forsooth, because their Arbitrary popishly Affected Officers shall pull off the Poxer, and wheel about, and at the word of Command, the whole Army after them. But the Query is, Whether they'll obey that Command, and be so tamely indifferent pro or con in their Obedience, as to act the most opposite thing to what they were raised for, and maintain perhaps the only Cause that they abhor.

I confess, in the Quarrels of Princes and States, as to Foreign Engagements, the vindicating of a National Honour, or the enlarging of Dominion, &c. Armies are generally of their Leaders Inclinations, and it boots little possibly to an English Army, whether engaged against a Dutch or a French Enemy. But in Domestic and Intestine Jars, the Favour of the Cause ever animates the Arm that fights it. In all the popish Rebellions, or Massacres, whether in Ireland, Piedmont, or

other Kingdoms of *Europe*; when *Religion* was the Quarrel; 'twas not the Command of the Leader, but the Principle of the Party adhering to him, that was ever the *First Mover* on both sides. And a popish Cause in *England* can never move, but upon the same *Axle*. And nothing is more idle, than to fancy such an Extravagance in any People or Religion in the World, as to swallow such *Implicit Obedience* to Princes, as to do any Thing, or all Things because *Commanded*. 'Tis not the first time that through prejudice to the Person or the Cause, disgusted Souldiers have shot through their Captains instead of their Enemies Heads, and the Fate of *Konisk*, amongst the *Cossacks*, is no Original of the Kind; nor is it any such Rarity in History, to find whole Armies turn Deserters, and not only set up new Leaders, but new Sovereigns too. And truly upon engaging an *English* Army under so Bloody a popish Standard, what Assurance can this popish Successour propose to himself, not so much of going through with so crabbed a piece of Work, but even of his own meer Safety under the Protection of such Hands and Swords to uphold him? What Security shall he, or indeed can he in common reason expect from the *Stubborn, obstinate English* Hands, a People too apt to fly in the very Face of Princes upon a less Provocation than so ungrateful a piece of Service: and that upon raising an Army for any such kind of purpose, he has not put the Sword into their very hands that may guide it to his own Throat, whilst possibly they shall be opportunely raised for some more Darling protestant Favourite to step into the Head of them, and dismount, not only their popish Officers, but popery too, and the very Royal popish *Nimrod* himself; nay, and perhaps use him with as little Remorse as the *Turkish Janizaries* have done several of their less hated Grand Seignours under a much more Trivial Disgust.

But to give an Example out of our *English Chronicles*, of the Obedience and Loyalty of *English* Armies to a King they hate; I shall only refer the Reader to the Fate of King *Richard the Third* at *Bosworth Field*. *Baker* tells us, that *Richard's Army* was double the Strength and Number of his Adversary, the Earl of *Richmond's*. Yet see the Infidelity of an *English Army* to a Prince under the popular Dissatisfaction and Prejudice. A great part of his Army raised for his preservation, was actually engaged in his Destruction. For the Lord *Stanly* by a Revolt with 2000 Horse, Sir *William Stanley* with a party of 3000 more; and with these Sir *Walter Hungerford*, Sir *John Savage*, Sir *Brian Stanford*, Sir *Simon Digby*, all Commanders, who withdrew likewise with their Respective Inferiour Souldiers, amounting between them, to the Majority of *Richard's* whole Army, turned all to the Earl of *Richmond*, and carried the whole Fortune of the day to the Victorious Enemies Side, to the Loss both of *Richard's* Crown and Life together. Nay, he goes further, and expressly tells us, that in this Battle *Henry*, Earl of *Northumberland*, a Commander of *Richard's* Party, never strook Stroke; as likewise many other, who follow'd him more out of Fear than Love; which *Numbers* upon the same Revolt as the Lord *Stanly*, might undoubtedly have withdrawn their party to *Richmond* too. So that upon that dangerous and fatal Rock, the people's Aversion, how easily are the Crowns and Lives of princes Shipwrack'd? and what little Trust can Monarchs repose in the Strength and Swords of Armies whose Hearts are not *Theirs*.

But alas! if *Richard the Third* found such Treachery from a Revolting Army; and an Army partly so destructive to him; What Truth or Faith is a popish Tyrant like to find from Armies under a more universal and inveterate Detestation.

For wherein was King *Richard's* Crime so great? (I mean, as to the people) 'Tis true, he Mounted the Throne by the most inhumane of Murders. And from that only Grievance proceeded the Defection of his Souldiers, that cost him his Life and Empire. But still, that was not half so great an Incentive to his Revolting Subjects, as the forementioned Barbarities of a popish Tyrant now. For though he was so deeply stain'd in Royal Blood, yet that was not so nearly felt by the people, as a Romish Tyrant cutting his Subjects Throats would be, by reason that *Englishmen* have ever a greater Tenderness of Themselves than their Princes. Besides, whatever Wrong he had done to the Royal Family, never had Prince more endeared himself (or endeavoured it, at least) than he to his people. For *Baker* gives this Account of him, That having gotten the Crown by pestilent Counsel, he sought to Establish it by Wholesome Laws; for in no King's Reign were ever better Laws made, for the Ease and Solace of the people, or more Immunities granted to the Subject. Nor was there any thing of Religious Difference in his Case (Religion, that the Character tells you, sets all Nations in a Flame) For *Richard* and his Souldiers were of One Church; and so no part of the people's Hatred (as in the Case of popery now) nor any part of the Coals was blown up from that Wind. Yet, if under no Danger to Religion and Liberties, no Approach nor Apprehension of Tyranny and Slavery, nevertheless his partialities alone outweighed all other Merits, and their Hatred of *Richard* only on that Score, could turn his Subjects Swords against his own Breast; how much more violent an Aversion will the Hatred of a popish Tyrant, both for his Religion and his Cause together produce, being enough to exasperate the *English* Constitutions, not only into Rebels, but even into Savages too.

But for a farther Instance of Revolting Armies, the History of *Demetrius*, Emperor of *Russia*, is a memorable Example. This *Demetrius*, the only Heir of the Empire, was in his Infancy stoln away to be rescued from the Danger of his Life from the Cruelty of the Usurper *Boris*, *Fedorovitch*, then in possession of the Empire, and another Body very like him, was exposed Dead to the View of the people. This *Demetrius* being brought up in *Poland* with the *Palatine* *Sandomir*, after he had travelled into *Germany* and *Italy* for the space of twenty years, gave himself to be known for the

Son of *Basil*, and Heir of *Russia*, and by the Assistance of the *Palatins*, the *Jesuits*, and the Favour of the King himself, entered into *Muscovy*, well accompanied with *Germanes*, *Poles*, and *Cossacks*. Against whom *Boris* raised a puissant Army. Nevertheless the Infidelity of his People, who rose in Arms against him, together with several *Lassés* sustained, deprived him both of *Courage* and *Life*, and thereupon he dyed, but left his Son to succeed him; who was received indeed by some of his *Faction*. But the City of *Muscovy*, together with all the Country, having joyn'd with *Demetrius*, threw *Boris*'s Son into Prison, and Establish'd *Demetrius* upon the *Throne*; whose Coronation, (as 'tis largely described in the *History of the Iron Age*) was attended with such loud *Transports* of the People, and such universal Acclamations of Joy, as could scarce be exceeded. Yet this very Prince had no sooner ascended the *Throne*, and was scarce yet warm in the Seat, but these very Subjects whose *Hands* and *Swords* had so cheerfully and vigorously asserted the Justice of his Cause and *Bright*, and advanced him to the *Empire*; nevertheless, understanding that he had embraced the *Romish Faith*, and acknowledged the *Pope*, and that he had introduced the *Jesuits*, as they apprehended, to endeavour the Change of the Religion (which in *Russia*, is the *Greek Church*) fell so totally off from their *new Allegiance*, and entered into so sudden and so perfidious a Conspiracy against him, that upon a General Uproar they fell upon the *Poles*, and others, as they were going to Court, insomuch that they overpowered all the *Foreign Assistance* he had brought with him, and approached so near to his Palace, till the Emperor left his Queen, and got away, and upon pursuit, leapt down from a Tower through a Window; at the Foot whereof (being found alive) he was forthwith dispatcht, and the Cruelty of the barbarous Multitude continued upon his dead Body, which they tore in pieces: And so swift was the Change of popular Affections, and so violent the Fury stirred up by the meer Alarm of altering the Religion, that all this prodigious Revolution was wrought in a Month's Time after his Acquisition of the Crown.

And, if the Imaginary Introduction of *Papery* (as this was hitherto no more) could raise so rapid a Torrent, and so sudden a Turn of Tide from the Revolting *Muscovites*; what miraculous Fidelity can a *Romanist* expect from *Englishmen*, under as great an Abhorrence of the Religion, and a more real Appearance of the aforementioned Tyrannous Effects of it.

But put the Case, the best and most plausible way, *Viz.* That a popish Successor (as some people will fancy) though really impossible) could raise a whole Army of the same stretching Conscience as the Character has raised him Officers, a Crew of all *Deists*, and neither Principles nor Religion were any part of their Consideration, and consequently pliable to any purpose whatever; as a Pack of such *Reprobates* as shall obey their Prince and his Officers in so unjustifiable a Command, and so unnatural a piece of Service as cutting the *Protestant* Throats, or upholding these Arbitrary Judges that shall do it; what Faith shall he dare lodge in an Army so Qualified? For what shall hinder them, upon any Opportunity or Overture of greater advantage, from turning as great *Rebels* against him as for him? and truly with as little Guilt, and as good Conscience on one side as 'tother. For an *Actual Obedience*, even to a Crown'd Head in the Execution of an Unlawful Act, especially so notorious as the *Massacring* of his Subjects, and Disturbance of the Government, is as much against our Duty, both as *Christians* and *Subjects*, as downright to rebel against him. And if this Army can stretch so far as to such horrid popish Outrages, so much against the *English* Grain, 'tis very great Odds, but they'd much easier lean to their more *Natural Bys* on the other.

I need not insist much farther upon the manifest Inability of *Papery*'s Advancement by *Arms* or Arbitrary Power, when Arbitrary Power of it self alone, without the other unwieldy Clog of *Papery* at the heels of it, has been ever adjudged so impracticable in *England*, that the very Creator himself, the *Norman William* thought not his Victory secure, but by engaging to adhere to *William* the Confessors Laws, or at least, to introduce no *New Laws*, excepting such as *Dynasts* by *Juries*, or the like; and these to the Privilege, not Infringement of the People's Liberties. And the long and Bloody *Baron's Wars*, upon a less Invasion of Liberty, are a sufficient Demonstration of the Uneasiness of *Englishmen* under any Yoke whatever. Insomuch that a popish Successor, under the undeniable Suspitions, and at best, but faint Affections of his People, is so far from a Capacity of Tyrannizing either with *Armies*, or without them, that he has no other Support both of himself and his whole Party, but by following the forementioned Measures of *Richard the Third*, and either to in dear himself by making of *Wholesome Laws* for the people's Freedom and Tranquillity; or at least by keeping within the Bounds of those wholesome Ones they have already made for their Security.

Now with all these *Numerous* and undeniable Blocks in his way, why must a popish Successor be able, or indeed possess with so Enthusiastick a Presumption (for nothing less than *Supernatural* Inspirations will do it) as to Think himself able to accomplish that very Thing in *England* which was never done by Monarch before. Nay, to make the Presumption a little more prodigious, this very Successor, who of all the Kings since the Creation, has the worst Tools for such an Atchievement, must be the first and only person that is for undertaking it. For as a National Slavery is always the work of Time, and can get footing at best but by slow and subtle Encroachments; and likewise, if at all, is a thousand times more feasible from a Prince that is the People's Darling, than one that is their Abhorrence. How unfit a Prince will a popish Successor be, for so hazardous an Attempt, when the continual and unfeigned Jealousies of his Subjects will

watching even the least Surprise or Arbitrary Encroachment upon them, and next will never furnish him with half hands enough to perfect the Undertaking!

Well, but notwithstanding all this, there are a sort of People in the World that shall make Answer, that Arbitrary Power in a Popish is not a thing so new, nor so impracticable, when the Government of the now French King is so manifest a Testimony to the Contrary. And truly there are but too many Incendiaries in this Age, that distract the Brainless part of Mankind with almost no other Gorge, viz. That the French King's Standing Armies are to be the Pattern of a popish Successor's Government, and the Persecution of his Hugonots, the very Fate of the Protestants in England, whilst under the Rose, Popery and Slavery are to Copy from no other Original.

As this is one of the main Pretensions of the Whig-Fears, and indeed the Top-Demonstration of Popery and Arbitrary Power; so when truly examined, you'll find it just such an Apparition as O'er a bloody Pilgrims; the more terrible, the more ridiculous. For as 'tis the common Fate of all popular Arguments on that Subject; so much the more formidable, still so much the more airy the Phantom.

For first, not to insist much upon the General Mistake of Mankind, when possibly the French Arbitrary Power is infinitely magnified above what really it is; for excepting the French King's now and then fleeing an Over-rich Cheating Courtier a little Arbitrarily, and thereby, in truth, making but a Reprisal of his own, I could never yet learn by those that know the French Government, that any man's *Mann* or *Tum* was Illegally taken away, or any Man's Life or Fortune stood or fell, but by the Judicial Process of the Laws of the Land. 'Tis true indeed, his Wars have been Expensive, but then his Revenues have been large to support them; and not only that, but his Foreign Depredations have supplied the greatest part of the Expence. Nevertheless whatever Arbitrary Taxes he may have rayed, to the Injury of any particular aggrieved Subject, or whatever Tyranny he may have exercised over the distressed and persecuted Hugonots, if either of the two can be properly Arbitrary or Tyrannick, when past into a Law, and made a Decree enacted by parliament, as both the Taxes and the present Hugonot Persecution are; the French King's Arbitrary Incroachments in France, are no precedent for a popish Successor's Imitation in England, and that because the State and Constitution of the Two Kingdoms are so extremely different, that there is not the least Ground for such a Foundation here as there.

For first as to the Nature and Genius of the People in France, the Peasants at Origine have not enjoyed half the Priviledges and Immunities of the Freeborn people of England. And therefore under that forced Education, as knowing no better, and being in a manner inured to Slavery, 'tis no such great wonder to see the French Commonalty submitting to such Oppression, as indeed, why should they otherwise, when they submit but to Law.

And if the French King has any greater Ascendance over his Parliaments than the Kings of England over theirs, to perform all this; why should that be any Rarity, when in reality they are of so different a Constitution from those of England, that they are rather the settled Magistraty of the Nation than any thing like our Parliaments; and as ours are of the people's Election, theirs in a manner only the King's; every Member of the French Parliaments holding his Office not only for Life, but even to his Heirs; unless alienated by the Prince upon a Forfeiture, or any personal Dislike; that is short, as being the Creatures of the King, they are truly more like a Turkish DIVAN than an English House of Commons.

But in fine, to make a Parallel of our Dangers between the State of the two Nations, which in truth is bringing North and South together. BECAUSE a popish French King, with the Majority of the Kingdom of his own Religion, the Religion Established by Law, and Flourishing in Glory by help of such vast Armies too, Intirely of that Religion, and thereby principled for his own Service, can squeeze some particular of his Subjects Purse a little Arbitrarily, and oppress and persecute the poor forlorn Hugonots, a Party infinitely the Minority, disabled too from all power, and at highest, but suffered by the Indulgence of the State, and that even with the most favourable Aspect of the Government, under that pittance of Encouragement, that (for Example) to the whole Body of the Reformers inhabiting in that vast and populous City of Paris, there is tolerated but One Hugonot Church, and that standing like our Pancras, only more Miles out of Town, because I say, the French King under these Circumstances can do all this. THEREFORE I pray mark it, a popish English King with his Diminutive Romish Party, the most inconsiderable Handful of the Nation, under not only the Censure of the Law, but the utter Abhorrence of the People, with the help of an Army (if he has any) of a quite contrary Religion, and thereby wholly unprincipled for the Service intended, shall vanquish and subject the Protestant Established Religion in all its Lustre and Strength, upheld by all the Fortifications of Law, and by Numbers even to a more than hundredfold Majority; whilst the English Protestants are not only to feel the French Hugonots Smart, but (if either the Fanatical Suggestions, or the popish Character speaks Truth) to groan under a hundred times more a dismal Persecution and Slavery, the present French Arbitrary Stretch being little more than a Fleabiting to our total Abolition of our Laws, Liberties and Religion.

But to make this French Goblin more monstrous still, there are some People that go a Bowes Shoot farther yet, and will tell you, that by the aforesaid almost Omnipotent Things called Standing Ar-

Birtherights to him, nay, to the very passing of at once both *Popery* and *Slavery* into *Tam* it self; and then Lord have Mercy upon poor *lost England*. For alas! the same Absolute uncontrollable Sovereignty that the *French King* has over his *Parliaments*, is (they'll tell you) the intended Scheme of a *popish Dominion* in *England*. And then where? Oh where! is our *Religion* and *Liberties* when that black Day once comes?

Now in the Name of *Lucifer*, what *infernal Impudence* reigns in the World, when such *Rank*, *Impudent* *Nonfensical Stuff* as this can be asserted by *Rogues*, and credited by *Fools*. For besides the most infamous Calumny that this execrable *Imputation* throws upon the whole Body of the Nation, *Viz.* That *Englishmen* shall be such *rascals*, such *abjects*, such *despicable Wretches* and *Cowards*, as out of any personal Fear whatever, to yield up their *Laws*, *Rights*, and *Religion*, to the Ruine of themselves and their *Posterity*, and thereby offer, as it were, even their own *Throats* to the *Slaughter*. What Relation has the present Management in *France* to that of *Popery* in *England*, or the *French King's* *Parliamentary* Influence to that of a *popish Successour's*?

For whatever extraordinary Obedience or Subjection the *French Parliaments* may yield to their King in the grant of any *Oppressive Impositions* upon the Subject to advance their King's *Exorbitant Power* and *Greatness*; are the *French King's* *Arbitrary Endeavours* to root up the *Foundations* of his *popish Laws* and the *Establish'd Religion* of *France*, which *vice versa*, is the Case in *England*; so that if a *popish Successour* can hector our *English Parliaments* to no farther a *Compliance* than the *French King* does this, the Devil an Inch of Ground will *Popery* get in *England*; for as I take it, the *French Parliaments* are all *popish*; and as such, are in so little danger of their *Religion*, that truly their Prince in the other Extream is in the highest *Extravagance* of Advancing it.

So that unless we state the Parrallel between the two Kings Thus, *Viz.* (Supposing the *French King* a *Hugonot*, which is but turning our *Tables*) that then both his *popish Armies* and *popish Parliaments* would nevertheless be *swayed* and *bully'd* into that *intire Submission* to him, as to abolish the *Fundamental Laws* of the Kingdom, and thereby subject themselves and all their Brethren *Papists* to the self same *Persecution* and *Slavery* under the *Hugonots*, that the *Hugonots* suffer under Them; without which Supposition his *Tyranny* is wholly *alien* to our *popish Successour's*; and nothing but the most *Villanous Phanatical Sophistry* dares cant at this wretched rate, to pretend to make the *French Tyranny* a *Model* for *English Popery* to work by. But put the Case there were a *French Hugonot King*, and that had the forementioned purpose in *Agitation*, either by *Armies* or *Parliaments* (as *pliable* as the *French Genius* is supposed to be) his *Ill Success* in such an *Exploit* might be soon guess'd, by the *Difficulties* and *Obstructions* of their *Hugonot Henry the 4th.* in his way to the Throne under but a suspicion of inclining that way. And consequently, what worse Success would attend the like *popish Changes* in *England*, under the manifest *disproportion* of the *English Papists* to the *French Hugonots*, is past dispute.

However, if neither *English Armies* nor *English Parliaments* can do the *popish Feat*, there's one last Expedient yet to banquish all *Obstacles*, and that I assure you, (if no small Authors may be believ'd) a most puissant one, *Viz.* If the *popish Hands* in *England* are too weak to enslave us, this *popish Successour* shall borrow the Assistance of *popish Neighbours* to help out, and so what cannot be done by *Domestick Forces*, shall be perform'd by a *Foreign Army*, call'd over on purpose. This Expedient I confess, is so much the more remarkable, as it has some little Affinity to *Bedlow's St. Jago Expedition*, and truly has sometimes had the Honour to be harangued upon even in a *House of Commons*, as no small Danger from *Popery*.

But notwithstanding the Authority and Veracity this Projection may seem to arrogate from its Admission into an *Honourable House of Parliament*; upon due Examination, I am half afraid, 'twill prove but one of the *Observer's* downright *Twangers*. For if this *popish Successour* be for setting up *Popery* by pitch'd Battles and plain Conquest, and that too, by *Outlandish Aids*; in the first place he must have far more than tenfold as many *Foreign popish Hands* as he has of his own to pretend at least to a strength able to subdue *England*; nay, and in truth, here's one *unlucky Circumstance* attending, that is, if he can borrow *popish Neighbours*, 'tis odds but the *protestants* may borrow *protestant Neighbours* too upon occasion; for Princes have as often lent *Armies* to succour *oppress'd Subjects*, as to assist *Oppressing Tyrants*. But let that pass.

But supposing the best face of the thing, that there were some Chance for him in this bold Cast; and that after his setting of Honour, Life, Empire all at a Throw upon the hazard of War, there were only an even Lay of Keeping or losing them, a *Caesar* aut nullus, 'twere a little more pardonable Venture. But as the Devil would have it, there's not one syllable of this in the Matter. For if overthrown, he's so irrevocably lost, that possibly not only his own Ruine, but that of all his *Royal Family*, and of *Monarchy* it self goes together. But admitting he Conquers, the Question is, whether the *Caesarship* on the other side be so secure or no?

For truly, what if the afore said tenfold Majority of *Foreign Conquerours* should make bold to pass a *Civil Complement* upon this *Successour* *Millant*, and the rest of his *popish Remnant*, and fairly keep the Victory when they have got it. For I assure him little *England* is a pritty Parcel of *Terra firma*, and 'twere no small Temptation to *popish* or no *popish* Fingers to be a little tenacious with so fortunate a Prize. And when those *Triumphant Foreigners* have tasted the sweet Air of so delicate a Spot as *England*, 'tis fourty to one whether They, or at least the *Crown'd Head* that lends them, will be overhasty of resigning so inviting a Trophy as the *English Diadem*; and truly considering

dering the *Blackness* of the Cause they came over to engage in, if any Forreign Prince can lend an Army for so *Disbhonourable* a Quarrel, which indeed all Nations and all Religions must cry Shame against, with much less *Disbhonour* may he wear the *Lawrel* he wins, and assume that vanquish'd Kingdom to himself, when he robs but a Robber, and at most *deposes* a Cut-throat.

And therefore to make Instance in the Case, what popish Successour will venture to call over, suppose thirty or forty thousand French to enslave his people (and thereby at one dash loose his People's Hearts beyond all Thoughts of a Recovery) as thither indeed the Whig Fears seem to point) upon a Confidence that the now French King's Generosity, though possibly not the best Faith-keeper in Christendom, after the Accomplishment of the Conquest, will make so intire a Resignation of all Pretensions of Victory to Establish this *Absolute Popish Sultan* : especially considering the insatiate Ambition of that aspiring Prince to Universal Monarchy, and particularly to the Sovereignty of the Seas ; which though with all his present great Ships under the Maritime Weakness of France he cannot atchieve, he might intirely possess by so opportune and so important an Addition to his Conquests as England.

Now they must have a wonderful Stock of Faith, with no small mixture of Madness, that can really believe any popish Crown'd Head in the World will ever play so cursed a Loosing Game, and take that Path towards Popery, with two such amiable Precipices both on the Right Hand and the Left, that the very Masterpiece of the Projection is but in effect writing his own MEND T E K E L over his own Head.

So that all the forementioned Impotence and Impossibilities of popish and arbitrary Tyrannys Introduction into England, being fully demonstrated ; I have only this to add ; There is no greater Mistake in the generality of Mankind, than an Imbibed Opinion, that the Papists think themselves obliged to endeavour the setting up of their Religion hap-hazard, right or wrong, hand over head, without Consideration or Regard to the Issue or Success of the Undertaking ; and that in fine, a popish Successour will certainly muster all Forces and all Engines to attempt the Storming of the whole Protestants Liberty and Religion, though under a tenfold Odds of laying his very Bones at the Siege.

But the Grossness of this popular Error will appear from the past Conduct of all the Papists in all Ages and all Countreys, when they never attempted a Rebellion, Massacre, or any such monstrous Design, but where they had, not only proper popish Instruments for the Service, but also a popish Strength capable in all reasonable prospect of going Through-stitch with it. Besides a Bigot in Religion is nevertheless a Statesman in the Establishing of that Religion, and excepting such Bedlamite Enthusiasts as the old Fifth Monarchy Adventurers, there's Policy as well as Faith in all Churches ; and how far soever Faith may stretch, Policy moves in the Bounds of Reason, and he that can believe the greatest lying Miracle in a Romish Legend, will never trust to Miracles in a Romish Battalia. And were a popish Successour in his Nature ten times, if possible, a Bloodier-minded Tyrant than the very Character has shaped him, if he wants Humane Strength to enslave us, let us not suspect his relying on Divine or Infernal Assistance, the Aid of Angels or Devils to help him.

And truly when a popish Successour shall seriously consider the Temper of the Head-strong English, a people always impatient of Wrongs, to that degree of Ill-nature in the Resentment and Prosecution of Ills above all Mankind beside, that whereas all other Nations cry [Run Rogue] 'tis observable the English Note is ever [Stop Thief] But above all, a People so nicely Jealous of Liberty, that the very Name of Oppression (especially from the Crown-side) without the Thing, is enough to make them slip the Bit and run stark mad ; insomuch that a King of England is but too justly call'd a King of Devils ; when he considers all this, I say, a popish Successour, a thousand to one, will never venture the raising those mutinous English Devils, without a Charm full strong enough to lay them again. And whatever his Inclinations might be for the Heretick Slavery, yet as

Vana est sine viribus Ira.

'Tis not the Thunder in a Popish Successour's Heart, but his Hand that can hurt us, and where the Arm's too weak, and the Bolt too untwisted, let us never trouble our Heads with fearing the Blow.

But that Point, *Viz.* A popish Successours POWER of Enslaving, Persecuting, Burning, &c. being sufficiently discust, let us next examine the Veracity of the Character in another Point, that is, granting he either had, or fancy'd he had the Power of doing it ; Query, whether it necessarily follows that he must have the Will to do it.

The Character, 'tis true (as I said before) makes him plunge headlong into the Breach of all Promises, Vows, Obligations, Oaths and Sacraments, all the Dictates even of Morality and Common Humanity, and what not ; and renders it withall so inseparable an Impulse and Principle of a popish Conscience, that in a manner, that popish Prince that neglects so incumbent and meritorious a Duty, is little less in the popish Balance than a Judas or a Julian, &c.

Though I confess, for all this terrible Oathbreaking, the two Instances recited in the Character to prove this universal popish Infidelity are possibly the best that a Man could wish to meet with. The First of them is Queen Mary's Breach of Promise of their Quiet Exercise of the Protestant Religion, made to the Norfolk and Suffolk Inhabitants that mounted her to her Throne, which I acknowledge was both ungratefully, and in the highest degree dishonourably done ; yet when truly weighed, is far from any thing of that damnable Law-breaking popish Perjury that the Character all along endeavours to blacken all Romish Princes with ; that on the contrary, though 'tis true,

she broke her *Promise* given to *Capitulating Rebels*; for the *Norfolk* and *Suffolk* Inhabitants were indeed *little better*; for as their utmost Endeavours of setting their *Lawful Sovereign* upon her *Throne*, was their absolute indispensable Duty, whatever her Requital might be, yet the *Chronicle* tells us they refus'd the Queen any Assistance whatever till they had first condition'd with her, and extorted that *Promise* from her. And if nevertheless she broke that *Promise* afterwards with them, here was no *Tyrannick Cruelty* exercised, nor any *Coronation Oath* Violated, when she only burnt them by *Law*; and as her *Coronation Oath* obliged her to rule by *Law*, 'twas only her *Misfortune* to believe the Equity of that *Sanguinary Law*, and accordingly, to act by it, and consequently, their *Misery* to feel the *Scourge* of it.

The 2d. Instance of a *Certain Gentleman* on the *Other side the Water*, that once took the *Sacrament* never to invade *Flanders*; which since he hath so notoriously broken: and the Inference from thence, that a *popish Successour* will much more break all Oaths, for the *meritorious* Propagation of his *Religion*, when a *popish Prince* has violated even *Sacraments* themselves for his *irregular, unjustifiable Ambition*; is so impertinently urged, that nothing can be less to the *Purpose*. For that Gentleman's Breach of his *Sacramentary Oath* is no Sin of the *popist*, but the *Man*, not a Principle of his *Religion*, but the fault of his little or no *Religion* in so slight a *Regard* of so *sacred an Obligation*, wherein his *Ambition* overpowered his *Christianity*; and possibly under his *Lust of Power*, an *Oath* upon the *Bible* or the *Alcoran* might be much of a *Strengthen*.

But to find a better Example of *Popish Persidy* than the *Character* affords, I acknowledge the *horrid* and most *barbarous* *Iniquity* of *Charles the 9th.* of *France*, and the *Impious* and *Execrable* *Massacre* of the *French Protestants* by that *Inhumane* and *Treacherous* Monarch's *Machinations*: which *Davilah*, an *Historian* of his own *Church* describes with *Detestation*, and which all *Religions* must remember with *Horror*: but at the same time, to do Justice likewise to the *Hugonot* Guilt, all good Men ought to reflect on the three *Hugonot* *Rebellions* in his *Reign* (though whatever their *Provocation* were) as wholly *unallowable* by the *Laws of God*; and their *Daylight Bloodshed* such a *Blot* in a *Christian Scutcheon*, which nothing but the others *Midnight Murders* could exceed; and possibly those *Rebellions* no small *Incentive* to that *Diabolical Assassination*.

I confess likewise, that I have read in a more *sacred Record*, how the *Jews* upon *Piques* and *Revenge* have cut off almost *whole Tribes* amongst them; but at the same time, as 'tis certain, those *Throat-cuttings* committed upon their *Brethren*, were against their *Religion* and the *Laws of God*, and which nothing but *Exemplary Penitence* could *Atone*, so the *Massacring* Spirit of *Charles the 9th.* when rightly scan'd, will not be found so *Canonizing* a *Qualification* in a *Romanist*, as the *World* suspects it.

For if it were really that *Signally Meritorious* Principle of *Poper*y, how comes it about that there's so few *Popish Champions* in so *Holy a Popish War*? For to instance the *Practices* of the *Romanists* in all *Kingdoms*, and all *Ages* since the *Reformation*. In the first place, in *France* (as *Dr. Burnet* in his *Preface* to his *Rights of Princes* assures us) the *Hugonots* enjoyed their *Liberties*, and the publick unmolested *Toleration* of their *Worship* for several *King's Reigns* together; nay, and what's particularly remarkable, the *Edicts* that confirm'd that *Toleration* were granted all by *popish Kings* and a *Majority* of *Papists* in *Parliament*, a *Favour* which was never granted to the *Papists* by any *protestant Parliament* whatever since the first *Establishment* of the *Reformation* in *England*. Nor is this *popish Good Nature* peculiar only to the *French Climate*, when so many of the *Principalities* of *Germany*, and of the *Cantons* in *Switzerland*, where *Poper*y is the *Church Establish't*, have from *Age to Age* continued the same *Toleration* of the *Reformers* in the publick *Impunity* of their *Persons* and *Estates*, and the *Exercise* of their *Devotion*. Now if *Persecuting* and *enslaving* of *Hereticks*, &c. were so highly meritorious in the *popish Church*, nay, the very *Sibboleth* of the *popish Christianity*, as the *Malice* of *popish Characters*, and the *Prejudice* and *Fear* of *English Fools* has represented them, and that the highest of *papal Blessings* and *Seats in Heaven* were the promis'd *Reward* of such *Transcendent Merit*; what unpardonable *Apostacy* lyes at the *Doors* of almost the whole *Body of Papists* through the *World*, and what *Curses* and *Anathemas* must such wilful, such undutiful, and such *grateless Omission* of a *Duty* so *Obligatory*, the *Remissness* and *Lethargy* of so many *Kingdoms* and *Principalities* from so many *Generations* to *Generations*, deserved.

But alas! as the *Tree is known by the Fruit*; and the *Test* of all *Principles* and *Inclinations* (I mean, under no *Restraint*) are their *Actions*; and as all those *popish Governments* have the *popish Majority* and *Strength* on their side; and thereby are in a visible *Capacity* of *Oppressing* and *Persecuting* their weaker *Heretick Subjects*; therefore this general *Indulgence* and *Mercy* is an *unanswerable* Argument, that under the *POWER* of *Tyranny* and *Cruelty*, they manifestly want the *WILL*. And whil'st their *Lenity* and *Clemency* so much exceeds even that of their *Boasting Accusers*, and the *Favourable Concession* of *Romanists* to *Hereticks*, outdoes that of *Hereticks* to *Them*; the *Injustice* of so false an *Attainder*, and so infamous an *Imputation* is sufficiently confronted from such a *Cloud* of numerous *Examples* to the *Contrary*; whil'st it does no more follow, that a *popish Successour*, by the *Tenents* of his *Church*, must hold himself obliged to be a second *Charles the 9th.* or any thing like him (had he the *Ability* of being so) than that every *popish Priest* must be a *Mariana* or a *Clements*, and every *Papist* a *Rabbiac*.

So that if it be true, as the *Character* affirms, That a *popish Successour* in *England*, that keeps *Faith* with *Hereticks*, and *Rules by Law*, will be the greatest *Laughing-Stock* of the whole *World*, whil'st all *Roman Catholick Princes* will deride the *Feebleness* of his *Arm*, and the *Tameness* of his *Spirit* for sparing a *Faggot* in *Smithfield*, &c. 'Tis very strange that those very *Princes* should so loudly exclaim against him for that very *Fault* in which *Themselves* are five hundred times more criminal

than *He* can be, by reason their greater Romish Transgression (if it be one) is so much more inexcusable, as *THEY* have popish Opportunity, Strength, Power, and Dominion to capacitate them for such a Persecution, and the Devil an *One* of them has *His* *Share* in it.

And at the same time (if it be the *Doctrine of Rome*) the *Pope* himself too, in so extraordinary severe an *Imposition* upon an *English Romanist*, must be prodigiously partial, nay, a worse than *Cyprian Taskmaster*, to lay such Rigorous injunctions upon for *Imposing* a popish Sovereignty here in England, and yet allow such *profuse Dispensations*, and such *extravagant Latitude* to the more powerful Papists through all the World beside.

Now after this pretended Brittleness of either Promises Obligations or Oaths, let us come to the next dreadful *Rhodomontade* of Tyrant and Barbarian in a Popish Successor. And that is, that his Zeal for his Church will supersede all the Dictates of Honour and Glory whatever, and nothing so hurtful or villainous that a Papist, though never so great, either Prince or Potentate will stand out at, when for the Advancement of popery.

The Intended Proof of this Assertion is the very Master-stroke of the whole Character, *Viz Perjury*, as follows.

The Glory of a Papist! A pretty very Notion! How shall we ever expect that Glory shall steer the Actions of a popish Successor, when there is not that Thing so abject, that he shall refuse to do; or that Shape or Hypocrisy so scandalous he shall not assume, when Rome, or Rome's Interest shall command; nay, when his own peccant Stubborness shall but fancy him. As for Example; For one fit he shall come to the protestant Church, and be a Member of their Communion, notwithstanding at the same time his Face belies his Heart, and his Soul is a Romanist: Nay, he shall wear his Disguises as often as an Algerine his Colours, and change his Flag to conceal the Pirate. As for Instance; another fit, for whole years together, he shall come neither to one Church nor to other, and participate of neither Communion; till ignobly he plays the Unprincipally, nay, Unmanly Hypocrite so long, that he shelters himself under the Face of an Atheist to shew a Papist. And Vizard more fit for a Banditto than a Prince. And this methinks is so wretched and so despicable a Disguise, that it looks like being ashamed of his GOD.

Now to the Eternal Shame of the Contagious Air of 79, and the most Flagitious Depravity of that Infamous Season; as nothing but the most unpardonable Malice encouraged and animated by the Licentiousness of those Libertine Days could have produced so exquisite a Mass of Rancour; so the Reader is to observe that it was exactly Calculated for that very Age 'twas written in, an Age when all Venome and no Reason was in Mode. For first, next to the old High Court of Justice, here's the most Impudent Tribunal set up, and a Prince most audaciously Arraign'd, and Sentenced for a Downright papist in his Heart at the same hour he's a Member of the protestant Communion, an Accusation beyond the possibility of humane power or knowledge to make proof of, and of which only God, that knows the Secrets of Hearts could be Judge. I remember I read of a Tyrant that hang'd a Fellow for a Soper Look; as a certain Conviction of a False Heart. But the Character goes a Bows Shoot beyond him, and pretends to Impeach Thoughts, and Adjudge Souls. And though neither the highest Scrutiny of Law, or Inquest of Humane Reason can inspect any further than into Visible Conformity and Ocular Demonstration: No matter for that, the popish Character can Out-fathom all Laws, and out-see all Reason, to find the vilest of Dirt to throw in the Face of Princes.

The second Inglorious and Oporturous Blot in the Princely Scutcheon, as the Character designs him, is the Being a Papist, and yet not daring to go to the popish Communion. Which by the way, is all Supposition still, and no Proof. However, granting the Supposition, that he is one, does not the Express Law of the Land say, That no papist, at least, no Native popish Subject of England, though never so Princely Born, shall go to the popish Communion. Yet nevertheless, here's a Prince most arrogantly asperst and vilified in the most barbarous Terms of Unprincipally, Unmanly Hypocrite, Pirate, Banditto, &c. and all this for obeying the very Laws of the Land, and consequently, for performing the Duty of a Subject and a Christian: Nay, and in the Character way of Demonstration, he does an Act that looks like no less than being ashamed of his God, in submitting to the Government, and thereby obeying the very Ordinance of God. If this be not a Master-stroke, as I told you, I know not what is.

But truly to be plain with this single Paragraph in the popish Character (no disparagement to the rest of that Label) no Impartial Reader but would swear the Devil himself could not have crowded more Spight and Virulence, and less Sence into fewer Words; and yet to shew the misery of the time 'twas writ in; I was so far from an Original in that almost universal Spirit of Bitterness that then Reigned, that the Reader can't forget (as indeed the whole Nation has but too much Cause to remember) that if he at that time walked but Westminster or Oxfordwards, he might have seen five hundred Men together, much my Betters, that talk't, and what's worse, acted as bad as I writ, and truly with as much, or more Gall, and full as little Reason.

Having thus fairly stated our Case, and proved the Imbecility of our Fears, and the Invalidity of the Arguments used for the Danger of Popery in England this Rougher way, through Perjury, Barbarity, &c. I shall come to the second Head of my Discourse, and enquire what Danger there is of its Introduction by Persuasion and Rhetorick, and all the gentler Meanes of a National Conversion.

Now

Now I confess, the pardoning of an Offender lyes in the Prerogative of the Crown, and the punishing, or not punishing of popish Priests, or any other Romish Emisaries, is wholly in the Breast of the Prince. And upon the Admission of a popish Sovereign to the Throne, 'tis presumed, that the Numbers of popish *Visitants* from Foreign Seminaries, will not only *Entcrease*, but likewise act less Clandestinely than formerly under the Confidence of *Connivance* at least, from a Prince of their own Perswasion, and a Relaxation of all the penal Statutes against Popery.

The Eminent Danger of Popery from this *Inlet*, raises no little Dust in the Character; and as the whole Defence of our Protestant Religion was secured by no other *Barriere* than by keeping our popish Emisaries at *Swords point*, and hanging and Quartering of Priests and Jesuits, and the severest Execution of the Statutes of *Recusancy*; which by the old Figure *Petitia principis* taken for granted, the Character most furiously lays about, to prove the Moral Impossibility of such a barbarous unnatural popish Successour that shall hang and quarter those very Men that from the bottom of his heart he believes, are the undoubted Disciples of Heaven, and Pillars of Christianity, &c. And if he doth not do all this, the Protestant Religion is upon it last Leggs, and our whole Church under a manifest prospect of being undermined and blown up.

Though by the by, here's another piece of *Richard and Baxtersims* in the Case: For if popery shall make its Entrance, and sweep all before it this way, and by meer dint of *Logick* or *Sophistry* shall pervert the Church of England, what need was there of all the aforesaid *Breyling*, *Roasting* and *Out-throating*, &c. to do the Job.

However, as this very Indulgence and Remission of the penal Laws is no more than what has been granted by the Clemency of the Crown even for Ages together, and all without one popular *Murmur*, or the least *Blot* in the Royal Arms; the next Question is, what necessity of *Shackling* the Prerogative, and tying up a popish Successour to *harder Meat* than all his protestant Predecessours; or what more mortal Crime is that Indulgence in a *Papist* than in all the protestant Crown'd Heads before him.

Oh yes, infinitely more they'll tell you: for the Case is different, the popish Hopes will be more Lively, their Courage more daring, and Themselves by their popish Prince, more publickly and more solemnly embraced and countenanced; so that the Inconveniences attending us from these more propitious Royal Smiles to the profest Enemies and Supplanters of our Religion, will, God knows, have those Victorious Effects, which all the feeblener popish Efforts before could never obtain.

Well, imagine all this extraordinary *Benigne Aspect* towards popery, and for once, let us put the Case the *Worst* that can be. Let us suppose all the Indulgence or Incouragement to Popery from a popish Successour, that the highest Stretch of the Prerogative can give it. Nay, let us suppose a popish Chappel in every Hamlet, and Mass sung in every Parish in England, and to officiate in this Work, the whole Tribe of St. Omers, Doway, and all the rest of the English Seminaries abroad, transplanted hither, to perform the *Mighty Operation*. What would all this do to bring in Popery? Nay, let the whole Colledge of Cardinals come over with them too, they would be almost as inoffensive to the protestant Religion as the Jewish Synagogue, and altogether as unable to make a National Conversion to *Papisme*, as the other to *Judaisme*.

For Instance, who are they, that these numerous popish Missionaries shall convert? The Understanding part of the Nation, Men of Reason and Learning? Not at all. For let the popish Numbers increase as they please, the popish Arguments are but the same, whether defended by ten, or ten hundred Romanists. And therefore they that have their Principles of Faith, and the Grounds of their Religion Rooted and Confirmed by sound and well pondered Judgment and Mature Consideration, will no more be shaken by all the popish Numbers they can send over, than all the popish Volumes they have written. Besides, what greater Affront can be put upon our Religion it self, than to imagine it so weakly supported, as to be so much as capable of being thus overthrown.

Who then shall they Convert? the Ignorant Multitude. No, Them less than the other. For as the others have Sense to defend themselves, These have that which is as strong, or stronger, and more Invincible, *Viz.* Deafness, Prejudice and Resolution. For let any man seriously consider the Genius of the People of England in that point, and but fancy a Jesuit, a Priest or any other popish Emisary, tampering with the poorest high-shoo'd, thick skull'd Clown, to possess him with a Faith in Transubstantiation, Purgatory, Saint-praying, the Pope's Infallibility, or any other of the Terrible Romish Principles, and instead of making him a Proselyte, upon the least Breath of that sort of Air, he should be so far from hearkening or listening so much as to the Means of a popish Conversion, so far from attending even to the Eloquence of Angels upon that Subject, that he should sooner look downwards for the Cloven-foot of the Seducer that utters it. For certainly those very people that have always been so Mazed and Night-mazed with popery, that they have scarce seen any thing else but popish Specters and Goblins even at the very Shadow of it, will fancy nothing less than Belzebubs and Lucifers at the real Appearance of it.

The Reduction indeed of England to the Romish Religion is a thing as easily SAY'D, either in an Amsterdam Coffee-House, a popish Courant, or an Oxford House of Commons, as a Tale out of the Seven Champions, and truly with as much Credibility: But alas! when it comes to the DOING once, the Papists will find that the whole Body of the people of England, even to a Nemine Contradicente (at least, not one in a hundred excepted) if without any other Defence of their Belief, are still those Opinators in Religion, that maugre the general Ignorance of the Multitude, or the great Learning or Rhetorick of the Jesuites, they'd be no sooner perswaded to quit their plain English Bibles, nay, not so much as poor Sternhold and Hopkins, to listen to an unintelligible *Latine*

Pass, or joyn in an *Ora pro nobis sancte Pauli, sancte Petre, sancte Loyola*, and the rest of the Fraternity of *Major, or Minor Saints*, then they'd kneel to the *Talmude* or the *Alcoran*, nor be no more perswaded into the possibility of a *Wafer's Transubstantiation* into a *Deity*, than of a *Cartwheel* into a *War*: and without these and the rest of the *Romish Fundamentals*, where's the *Restoration* of the *Romish Faith*, or the Progress of a *Popish Propagation* in England.

But to confirm this certain *Truth* from a more substantial *Authority* than my own. 'Tis the very Opinion of the Reverend Dr. *Burnes* himself, a person, let me tell you, under no small Pains for the protestant Religion, and as a Churchman, under no common Consternation from popish Dangers, and therefore not at all likely to lull us into a false Security of our Religion. The Instance of which Opinion I find in the 9th. page of his Preface to the *Rights of Princes*, as follows;

'Tis the Maxime of the Popes, not to reform Abuses in their Church, for if some Corruptions were once acknowledged, and amended, that would give credit to the Complaints which the Hereticks made, and be a publick Confession, that the Church had Erred, and would set on foot a humour of making Changes, which could not be easily limited or managed. These Politicks prevailed at Rome, so that instead of removing Abuses, all were justified and maintained, and yet humanely speaking, it is not to be imagin'd but that if some more palpable Abuses in the Worship, such as the scandalous Use of *Images*, the denying the *Chalice*, and saying the Office in an *Unknown Tongue*, had been corrected, the Reformation could not have made so great a Progress as it did. Wise Men are unwilling to make great Changes, and the Rabble are wrought on, not so much by Speculations, and subtle and learned Arguments, as by prejudices to some publick Abuses, of which they are ALL sensible; and while these are continued, 'twill be easie to heighten their Dislike of them, and to lead them almost into any Opinions, to which the hatred they bear to the Abuses may any way dispose them. And the defending or maintaining of Abuses, which cannot be defended, endangers the whole Cause in the Opinion of those who judge of Parties in Gross, and not by the Retail of particular Arguments.

So that to summe up the Matter; Here's the whole Cause of Rome in a manner wholly lost by the Gross Abuses in that Communion. And what between the *Invincible Obstinacy* of the Romanists on one side, never to recede from those Abuses; and the Rabble's unanimous Disgust against them on the other, as being apparent even to all Capacities; here's the greatest progress of the Reformation, flowing from almost no other Channel; and by consequence, if the Original Prejudice against those Abuses, could open so broad a Gate to the protestant Religion, the present more irreconcilable Antipathy against Rome, heightned by so many successive popular Inflammations, will make the Resumption of that popish Commit so more universally nauseous, that it will undoubtedly much more contribute to the Confirmation of the Protestant Religion, than ever it did to the Introduction of it.

For let but any reasonable Man consider, that during so many Ages of Impunity to the Papists from the long Mercy of the late Kings of England, when Recusancy went unmolested and unregarded, and neither Papist, nor popish priest, either punish'd, or examined: excepting some few Families, that bred up their Children in their own Perswasion, what Conversions have the popish party, and all the Romish Missionaries made in England for half a hundred years last past? So far from any Increase, that on the contrary, they have from Generation to Generation apparently dwindled less and less till they are now scarce a handful in consideration of all England. And if Popery and Jesuitisme, with all their Learning and Insinuations under such Royal Indulgence have made such feeble progress in the Conversion of England, that they have dayly lost ground, not gain'd it; shall the yet larger Indulgence of a popish Successour, with the permission of their popish Priests barefaced, the multiplying of their Numbers, or the Influence of *Regis ad Exemplum* do the Work? The quite contrary. For suppose the popish Priests a hundred times more numerous, and a hundred times bolder than now, yet as the popish Seducers are increased, so likewise under the dismal Apprehension of a visible popish Successour the popular Aversion will so much more increase too, and thereby become the more impregnable, whilst the Universality of their Fear and Hate will make them so much the more Fortified against the utmost Assault. Besides, if the Jesuites have made so little Advances of Popery formerly in England, that (granting it true that's said of them) they have been put to the poor shifts of herding with Fanatics, and disguising into Conventicle Preachers; what Encouragements (Oh wonderful!) are they like to meet, when they throw off the Vizard, and walk by day, in the open Propagation of a Religion so universally loathed, that it wants the subtlest of Artifices and Disguises to obtrude even the least Tenet of it into the World; at least, our Part of the World.

But surely nothing in nature can be a more ridiculous Supposition at this time of day, as that the Example or Favour of a King in Case of Popery, shall contribute towards the People's Embracing it, when undeniable Experience tells us, that the very Aspersions of but popishly affected, has lost our Kings so many Hearts, nay One of Them (with horror be it spoken) his very Crown and Head. By consequence, how many more Hearts shall Popery in earnest loose a true Popish King? and what little hope of gaining Profelites or Friends to a real Romanist, when the meer Imagination has rays'd such contagious Desertions and Enmity even to the best of Protestant Crown'd Heads. And therefore how wretched a piece of Sophistry must that be that Imposes on the unreasoning World so impudent a piece of Falshood, Viz. That Popery and a Popish Successour will find such favourable

favourable Stars in England; when on the contrary, the bare *Notion* of Popery and *popish Councils* have been attended with such *Fatality*.

However, to answer a little nearer yet to the Danger of Popery's coming in through the *Remissness* and *Neglect* of executing the Laws against it, and the *Indulgence* and *Incouragement* of the Prince to promote it, I have only this Request to make to thee; thou poor *frighted, half-witted Creature*, that fearest all this Danger (for nothing of sense can fear it) to lay thy hand upon thy Heart, and answer me this Question: Amongst those *Profelites* that the *aforesaid Toleration* and *Encouragement* of the *popish Successour*, and the *Witchcraft* of the Pope and *Jesuits* are like to make, Art thou thy self one of the number that is in that danger of turning *Papist*? Now to answer for thee in thy own *Dialect*, *No!* God forbid, thou'lt say, what, shall I turn to a Religion that has nothing in it but *Superstition* and *Idolatry*? a Religion worse than *Paganisme* and *Judaisme*, a Religion that consecrates *Daggers*, and canonizes *Murderers*, that makes nothing but *stabbing of Kings*, & *Massacring whole Nations* the only meritorious Act of *Christianity*; and do you think that either the *Insinuations* of *Priests*, or the *Flattery* of *Kings* themselves, or any *Earthly Reward* shall make me turn such an *Apostate* from *Truth*, as to *damne* my Soul and *renounce* my God: no, I have more Assurance in his good *Grace* than to imagine he'll abandon me to *such a Thought*: no, no, my Fear is not for my self. But alas! though I shall never turn *Papist*, too many others will; and when these *Jesuites*, *Priests*, and *Villains* have perverted the greatest part of the Nation to their *Idolatry*, and thereby come to be able to set up the *Romish Religion*, with all the old *Fire* and *Faggots* that belongs to it, then shall such *honest Protestants* as my self be burnt at a Stake, for not turning *Devil* too for *Company* with them. And what a miserable Condition will the poor *Protestants* be in in that dreadful day.

Why thou fool, canst thou thus make this *confident & Resolute Answer* for thy self, and art thou so secure for thy own part, and only *suspectest* the Danger of a *popish Conversion* from the *weakness* of thy Neighbour. If that be all, trouble not thy self, nor distract thy little Brains for nothing, but for thy Comfort, examine thy Neighbours Hearts as thou hast done thy own, and of ever hundred amongst them thou wilt find almost every where at least *ninety nine* of them that have the same dreadful Opinion of *Popery* as thou hast, and as utter an *Abomination* of it as thy self, with the same *Confident Assurance* of themselves too; nay, and that have only thy very *Reasons* of fearing it. How ridiculous therefore must thy Fear be, when if thou art secure, they are so too. And if so, where then are the *Infinite Numbers* of those *Weak Brothers* that the Pope's *Emissaries* shall subdue, and that *Majority* of a *perverted Nation* that shall *Establish* and set up this *Rebubadnezar's Image*, and doom thee to *Fiery Furnaces* for not kneeling with them to *Worship* it.

If the *Dint* of *Perswasion* and *Indulgence* then be all the *Introduction* of *Popery*, and this the highest Flight of a *popish Successour* (as indeed it is) all our *Dangers* are quite *vanisht*, and the more the Nation *abhors* *Popery*, the less Cause it has to fear it, whilst the *Universality* of the *Detestation* is the certain *Security* of keeping it out; and none but *Fools* or *Madmen* can be frightened by the *Apprehensions* of it that way. For the *Blacker* the *Feind*, the less power he has over us, and they that are above *Temptation* need not fear the *Devil* himself.

But beyond all these various Pretences for Popery's coming in, there's one more general Argument almost in all *Mouths*, which we find dayly urged, and that bears no little sway in *Vulgar Apprehensions*, *Viz.*

Why is it impossible that *Popery* should come in again, and that too, by *Law Establish't*? Experience plainly tells us, that *Henry the Eighth* lay'd the *Foundation* of the *Protestant Religion*, nay, and by a *popish Parliament* too. For by a *Romish Parliament* was the *Pope's Supremacy* destroyed, by a *Romish Parliament* the *Monastery's* and *Abbey-Lands* confiscated, and that very Monarch, after the *Continuation* of *Popery* by a *Reign* of more than half a thousand years, in the very *Infancy* too of the *Protestant Religion*, when possibly the *Protestants* then in *England*, were a less handful than are the *Papists* in *England* now. This very King I say, with so small a *Party* of *Protestants*, could nevertheless lay the very *Corner Stone*, that the *whole Reformation* was afterwards built upon, and that too by *Act of Parliament*. And why on the other side, shall it be so impossible for a *popish Prince*, with *Henry the Eighth's* *Courage* and *Conduct* withal, after not a hundred and fifty years *Reign* of the *protestant Religion*, to be likewise able to do the same Favour for *Popery*, and lay the very *Basis* of it even by *Parliaments* and *Law*. And a *protestant Parliament* now, as a *popish* one then be so *managed* or *Influenced*, as to give a main Lift to the *Work*.

Besides, why should the *Change* of the Religion be so wondrous or difficult a *Deed* under a *popish Monarch* now, when upon every *Change* of the Prince's Faith since the *Conquest*, the *Establish't Religion* of the Kingdom has been changed with it. For Instance, after *Henry's* good Stroke towards it, Did not an *Infant Prince*, *Edward the Sixth*, in poor seven years time *Establish* the *protestant Religion* by *Law*? And did not *Mary* his *popish Successour* subvert it again by *Law*, and by *Law* restore the very *Pope's Supremacy*? And lastly, Did not the *protestant Queen Elizabeth* after her, trample both *Pope* and *Popery* under Feet, and confirm that very *Protestant Religion* that *Reigns* at this Day. And why shall a *Popish Successour* now, with as much *Zeal* and *Industry* as his *Predecessours* miscarry in that very work in which not one of them fail'd before him.

There is nothing that possibly passes for a more *Authentick Confirmation* of all our *popish Dangers*, than this *One Assertion* so universally received for *Current Sterling*, by being only taken at a *Lump* upon *Trust* unweighed and unexamined. But when considerately and thoroughly inspected, all rational

Men must blush to be deceived by so light and so drossy a Popular Tradition.

For to begin with *Henry the Eighth*. In the first place, here neither is, nor can be the least *Motive* for the present Protestant People, or their *Representatives* to make the least Change whatever in the present Church of England, in any kind answerable to the several *Inducements* that wrought those Changes in *Henry the Eighth's* Time.

For first, as no small *Encouragement* for the Reformation, the People had then contracted a general and just *Odium* of the whole Clergy, strangely occasion'd by the Murder of *Hunn*, a Merchant of London in Prison. This *Hunn* being sued in the *Legates Court* for Non-payment of a *Mortuary* to his Parish Priest; in return, sued the Parish Priest in the *Temporal Court* for a *Wymunire*, for bringing the King's Subjects before a *Foreign and Illegal Court*. This incensed the Clergy so much, that they threw him into Prison for *Heresy*; where having several Articles exhibited against him, upon Confession of part of them, and begging Mercy, he was only enjoyn'd *Penance*. But not being prevail'd upon to let fall his *Suits* in the *Temporal Court*, the Bishop's *Chancellor*, a Doctor, and other of his Officers inhumanely murdered him in Prison, by breaking his Neck with an *Iron Chain*, and other Wounds given him upon the Belly; and then hanged him up in his own *Girdle* to possess the World that he hanged himself. And what was yet worse, upon a full *Disclosure* of the Truth of this Murder, the Bishops of *Durham* and *Lincoln*, to palliate the Guilt, proceeded to charge him with new *Heresies* after Death, and having found a *Wichliffe's Bible* in his House, they condemn'd him as an *Heretick*, and burnt his Body. All which Proceedings being now looked upon as the *Act* of the whole Clergy, they lost the Affections of the People to that degree that they could never recover them; and nothing more disposed the People to the embracing of the *New Preachers* than the *Resentment* of so infamous a Murder, committed and patronized by the whole Clergy.

[Hist. of Ref. pag. 14, and 15.]

And then for the Changes made in Parliament. The Suppression of *Monasteries*, one of their *Acts*, was no more than what was design'd, and begun in some Measure by Cardinal *Woolsey*, and the Pope himself, and that long before the Breach betwixt the King and Him, who granted a *Bull* to destroy several of them, to convert into *Bishopricks*; [Ref. pag. 22.] the scandalous and lewd Lives of too many of the *Monks* and *Friars* being obnoxious even to *Rome* it self. Though 'tis true, the King and Parliament proceeded to a total Suppression of them afterwards for the same Intent of erecting new *Episcopal Sees*; though indeed the vast profits arising from their Sale, through the *Extravagant Profuseness* of *Henry the Eighth*, were not wholly converted to that Use; notwithstanding, part of his Promise was performed, *Viz.* In his constituting six new *Bishopricks*, and making Allowance for fourteen *Deaneries* and *Prebendarships* to fourteen *Bishop's Sees*.

But to gain the Parliament to the King's Party in the Destruction of *Monasteries*, there was that which *Governs* the World, Interest in the Case; which was no small *Wheel* in the Machine. For the King selling of the *Lands* at *easy Rates* to the Nobility and Gentry; by this Policy the Parliament Members, as *Purchasers*, by the Temptation of such good penny-worths, were engaged to assist the King in the Maintenance of the Changes made. [Ref. pag. 223.]

And for another part of *Henry the 8th's* Reformation, *Viz.* The censuring and condemning of *Bulls*, *Indulgences*, *Shrines*, *Pilgrimages*, and *Relicks*, with the pulling down of *Images*; the scandalous *Impositions* of several of them by the fraud of the Priests, being publicly discovered, [Ref. p. 242.] created no little aversion in the People. But besides all that, here could never be a more pleasing Change to them than so beneficial a part of Reformation, *Viz.* The freeing them from all those *Ecclesiastick Romish Dreins*, that had so long swallow'd almost half the Wealth of the Kingdom, in which too many of them had been too great Sufferers, not only through their own, but also the deluded *Superstition* of their Bigotted Ancestors, and by which no less than whole Families had been *Impoverish'd* and *Undone*, through the pious *Frauds* and continual *Suckings* of those Church *Boyle* *Leeches*.

And lastly, for the Exclusion of the Papal Supremacy, the above cited penalty of *Premunire* incurred both by the whole Clergy and Layty of England in submitting to the Pope's *Legatine Power*, contrary to Law, as against the Act of *Provisors*, contributed no little matter both to the Clergy and Commons Submission to the King in the point of that Supremacy. Besides, to facilitate the Assumption of it, it was plainly proved by that *Provisor Act*, and other *Substantial Records*, that the Pope's *Encroachments* in England were but *Usurpation*, and the Supremacy in reality *ab origine & de jure* inherent in the Crown; and therefore the Resumption of it by the King, no more than a *Challenge* and *Reprizal* of his own *Inherited Privilege*.

As these were all the Changes made by *Henry the Eighth*, the Popish Religion being so far from abolish'd by him, that he rather strook at the Court than Church of *Rome*; witness the *Act* of the six Articles made by him, defending the greatest and principlest Tenets of *Rome*, by no less than *Capital Punishments*, and a Parliamentary Reinforcement of the old Statute *de Hereticis comburendis*; [Ref. pag. 147.] the *Heretick Burning* continuing through his whole Reign. As these I say, were all the Changes made by *Henry the Eighth*, instrumental to the present Reformation, and that too, not without *Obstructions*, witness several *Rebellions* occasioned by this Change; the one of 20000 Strong in *Lincolnshire*; another more formidable one in *Yorkshire*, called by the Rebels, *The Pilgrimage of Grace*, attended with a general Insurrection in all the North. However, as I said before, here is no *Motive* or *Inducement* now for the like Parliamentary Compliance with a Popish Successour, to make any, the least Change instrumental to the *Romish Restoration*.

For

For first, supposing (how notoriously false soever) an equal *Mutability* or *Dispossession* in the People now, to return to *Rome*, as then to depart from it. Here's no stigmatizing *Brand* of *Murder*, or any other publick *Perpetration* or *Avowing* of any Villany whatever to taint the whole *Protestant* *Clergy*, and thereby withdraw the People's Hearts from them.

Here's no *Holy-Christs* and *Superstitious* priest-impunities practised to drain the People's Purles to gratify a scandalous, voracious *Clergy*. Or any detected *Abuses* and *Corruptions* to disgust and exasperate the People against them.

Here's no least *Dormient Statute* or *Title* whatever, for a *Popish* Successour to lay hold of, in favour of the *Papacy's* Return into *England*, as there was for its *Expulsion*. The Fence of our present *Protestant* *Constitution* being so strong against it, and all Pretensions of *Rome* so utterly extinct and abolished. Neither is here any *Prejudice* incurred by the whole *Clergy* and *Nation* to fright, or deter them into any fordid *Condescension* of *Graces* in *Diskindness* to our *Religion*.

And lastly, here's no *Fleeing* of an *Overgrown*, *Overrich* Church in the Case. (The present *Church* *Revenues* under so many *Impropriations*, being no more than will but just support its *Dignity* and *Pastor* but with *Subsistence* and *Decency*.) No *Ecclesiastick* *Booby* nor *Prize* to bribe or allure an *Averselike* *Parliament* to weaken or impoverish their Church for the temptation of sharing the *Spoil*.

But above all other *Obstacles* against *Rome*, her's an absolute *Impossibility* of a *Temporizing* *Clergy* to favour *Papery*. For supposing even the most barbarous *Inundation* of their *Fanatical* *Enemities*, *Frauds* and that *Whimion*, *Interruption*, *Scrupulosity*, (how rascally soever that *Infamous* *Suggestion* were above *Religion* with them. Yet nevertheless the utmost Influence of a *Romish* *Prince* could never warp them to any such *Execrable* *Apostasy*; by reason the *Indispensable* *Conscience* of the *Romish* *Clergy* would totally exclude the present Members of the Church of *England*, as being *Interests*, nothing but *Degradation* and *Beggery* could attend them.

And for an *Unanswerable* *Disparity* between *Henry the Eighth's* Influence towards the present *Protestant* *Religion*, and a *Popish* Successour's towards *Papery*. The *Protestant* *Religion* with an inviting Face was in a State of *Innocence*, untainted by any of its *Corrupted* *Professours* with any thing like *Papish* *Unassurances*, *Irish* *Rebellions*, or *Gun-powder* *Treasons*; enough of themselves alone to open that *Unreleasable* *Chasm*, that never to be cemented *Breach* between *Englishmen* and *Papery*; that *Papery* could not now gain three *Profelites* to a hundred gain'd in *Henry the Eighth's* Time to the *Protestant* *Religion*.

But here I cannot but take notice of one *Gross* *Mistake*, that's commonly receiv'd for *Truth*, Viz. That *Henry the Eighth* beated his *Parliaments* to what he listed. Which is oftentimes made use of as an *Argument*, that a *Popish* Successour, with the same *Courage* may do the like with his; when on the contrary, they acted only by their own *Inclinations*, and when any thing was proposed by the King that went against the *Grain*; not all his *Menaces* could force them to a *Submission*. For Example, when a Bill had pass the *House of Lords* for regulating a common Practice then in *England*, of defrauding the King and several of the Lords of their *Advantages* made by *Wards*, *Marriages*, and *Primer Seisin*, by Men's making such *Settlements* of their *Estates* by their last *Wills*, and other Deeds to that purpose. Yet notwithstanding the utmost pressure both of the King and Lords for redressing that Abuse, the *Commons* rejected the Bill [Ref. pag. 116.] And as to the *Reformation*, some part of it was of their own seeking. For Example, in his 22d. Year, the *Commons* complained to the King of the grievous and intolerable Severity of the *Ecclesiasticks*, for calling Men before them *ex Officio*, and laying Articles to their Charge without any *Accuser*, and then admitting no *Purgation*, but causing the Party accused either to *abjure* or *burn*. Reform. Pag. 116. And indeed in all the *Reformation* they rather drew with him, than were driven by him.

And to shew the vast Difference betwixt the Operation of the Prince, either by *Edward* or *Mary* towards the Change of the Religion, and the working of a Change now.

In the first place, besides the daily *Converts* made to the *Protestant* *Religion* in *Edward's* *Reign*, which added Strength and Vigour to the *Reformation* wrought by that Prince, as the State of Religion then stood the *Popish* and *Protestant* Party were grown in a manner to be an *Equal* *Division* of the Nation, and 'tis not to be wondred, that where the *Weights* even, the *Sovereign* Power added to the *Ballance*, could turn the Scale; as both in his and his Sister's *Reign*. Either Party having an *Easie* Game to play, whilst the *Respective* *Monarch* might with small Difficulty turn up his own *Religion* *Trump*, when he had half the Cards in his hands.

Besides, the Law had then so weakly provided for the true Settlement of either Religion, that the greatest part of the *Ecclesiastick* *Changes* then, lay almost wholly in the pleasure of the Prince: For after the *Parliament* had fully invested *Henry the Eighth* with the *Supremacy*, they empowered him as *Head of the Church*, to dispose of all *Episcopal* *Sees* by *Letters* *Patentes* during pleasure. (Abridg. Ref. Book 2. pag. 4.) and the *Bishops* by the same Authority had the like Jurisdiction over the *Inferiour* *Clergy*.

This unbounded Latitude of the *Supremacy* continuing through both the next *Reigns*, a great part of the Changes was owing wholly to this *Prerogative*; whilst King *Edward* made choice of a *Clergy* of his own Perswasion; and in like manner Queen *Mary* platted or displaced her *Bishops*, and removed all the *Inferiour* *Clergy* ad *Libitum*, turning out whom she pleas'd, without any *Form* of *Process*, or special *Master* objected against them. All which (Abridg. B. 2. pag. 249.) was done by vir-

the of the Queens being *Head of the Church*; which though she condemned as a *sinful and sacrilegious Power*, yet she now employ'd it against those *Bishops*, whose *Sees* were quickly filled with *Men* for her Purpose.

So that nothing could make a greater *Turn of Church Affairs* in the Kingdom in those Days, when under such a *Total Alteration of the Clergy*, and all ready at hand to stop into their *Seats*, the whole Interest of the *Adverse Religion* through the forementioned *Equality of Parties* could not but be extremely shaken, and the Prevalence in *Parliament* be highly mov'd by no other Spring. Besides, the *Act De Hæreticis comburendis* was then *unabolish'd*, and as the Determination of *Heresy* lay in the *Breast of the Clergy*, here was an easy leap into all the foregoing *Severities of Rome* even by the Law itself. Inasmuch that either of the Religions could not properly be call'd by *any Establishment* whilst our *Pastors* and our *Feld* were in a manner at the *Will of the Sovereign*, and there wanted but little more than the *Royal Breath* to drive us to the *Right or the Left*, the *Sheep or the Goats*.

But all this is so prodigiously remote from the *present State of England*, and the *Religion now Establish'd*, that *Light and Darkness* can be scarce more *dissimulant*. For besides the infinite *Disproportion* of the *Popish Numbers* in *Queen Mary's Reign*, to *ours*, enough of it self to silence all *Dispute*; a *popish Successor's* Removal of the *present Protestant Clergy*, and the Introduction of *Priests and Jesuits* in their Room, as *Head of the Church*, is no more in his *Prerogative* than the Government of *Pennsylvania*: The *present Bishops and Clergy* holding in *Life*, and only to be displaced or silenced upon *Crimes or Insufficiencies* adjudged or condemned by the *Protestant Censure and Sentence*. And all the *popish Clergy* so incapable of their Places, that they are *Alien* to the *Nation*, under an *attaint of Treason* upon the very Assumption of their *Sacerdotal Orders*; and so shut out from our *Church-Ministry* by *Parliamentary Oaths, Tests, and Abjurations*, that nothing but the most *Disobedient Papal Dispensation*, and a *Conscience even Brimstone Proof* could introduce them, were there really Room for their Admission.

But alas! considering in what *Equilibrium* Religion then hung, whatever *Concurrence* the Prince could then obtain from his People in *Parliament* in favour of his own *Persuasion*: The *Genius of England* is now quite another thing. All our *Parliaments* for almost a hundred years last past, have been so far from granting even the least *Concession* to the Crown in favour of *popery*, that on the contrary, all their *Study, Votings, Labours, and Endeavours* even to a *Nemine Contradicente*, have been level'd at the very Root of it; so far from countenancing of it, that the very sound of it has made them fly out into the most rapid *Torrent of Contrabition* even beyond the Duty of *Subjects*; and instead of Complimenting either *Pope or Popery*, they have tyed up their very Hands even from the belt of *Protestant Crown'd Heads*, and in their highest *Extremities* denyed them their most reasonable *Demands* in the most pressing *Necessities* of the Crown, and all for the Apprehension of *popish Designs*, and for keeping the least String of their Purse from *popish Fingers*.

I need not instance what Load of *Miseries* attended the late *Royal Martyr* from this *Fatal Original*: Neither do I urge this in Relation to those detestable *Regicides*, the corrupted Limbs of that *Creditable Senate*, that under the *Vizor of Religion*, were plotting the most *Infernal of Mischiefs*; and so from the false Alarm of *popery*, denyed their Sovereign all Things only to make him *Pathetic*. No, as all Men are not *Monsters*, and even in that *Accursed Parliament* there were some honest Men; yet those very honest Men, those that by the *universal Delusion* were enchanted into *False Fears*, and so design'd nothing but *Truly the Prevention of popery*, were yet under that *Terrour*, so *Jealous* of their Prince, so *Deaf* to his Interest, and so *inexorable* even to his most *Crying Wants*, and all for battering these fancy'd *Airy Castles*, that in the vehemence of their *Zeal* they contributed to the very *Designs* of his *Murderers*; and how ignorantly soever, heap'd together the very *Coals* to the *universal Conflagration*; so far too, that they had only Time to detect the *Infernal Imposture*, and deplore the dire Effects of their miserable Mistake too late.

Besides, to come a little nearer home, What *dismal Consequences* were the late *Malignant Conjunction of Fears and Jealousies* in the same *Fiery Trigon*, producing again? What *Demi-Gods and Demon-Satanisms* did the whole *Vox populi*, nay, the very frustle Men of the Nation make of those very *Varlets*, which now their *Opened Eyes and waken'd Senses* (I appeal to their own Consciences) tell them are those *flagitious, unparallel'd Villains*, that would shame a *Gibber*.

And yet the very *Loyaltest* of all our late Members of *Parliament*, for they were not all *Shaftsburies* nor all *Sidneys*, neither such that were for *Associating to Kill Kings*, to keep out *Popes*, nor answering of *Films* out of *Buchanan's* and *Miltons*, nor seating the *Good Old Cause* at the *Right Hand of GOD*. Not those that made *popery* the pretence alone to manage their own *Hellish Republick Machinations*. But only those that (alas, and well a day!) had been *Bank-Blam'd* a little out of their right Wits by the afore said *Nation-Saviours*, and so were for combating of *Popery*, possibly for the *Real Preservation of the King and Kingdom*. Yet the very *Loyaltest* of these Men, I say, were wrapt up to that height of *perversefness*, that to use the gentlest Terms I can find, they thought they could never do little enough even for that very King attested by their own *unanimous reiterated Acknowledgments* to be the very *John* that kept *P O P E R Y* from *surrounding us*; and on whose *Only Thread of Life* the whole *F A T E* of the *Protestant Religion* depended.

I shall not trouble my self with the Repeating the Directory of *Stratford* recited in the Character to instance the various *Shedding* of the *Succeſſion* of the Crown in *Henry the Eighth's* Reign, designed there as an Argument of Justice for a *Parliamentary* Bill of Exclusion against a *Papish Heir*. For whatever different Settlements of the *Disſem* of the Crown that King and his *Parliaments* were pleased to make, occasioned by the *Intercity* of his *Daughters* *Tales*, grounded upon that long controverted Point, the *Divorce* of *Queen Katherine*, the Mother of *Queen Mary*; and therefore not at all enacted as an Exclusion, but a *Condemnation* of the *Right Heir*.

However, as far as ever as a *Parliamentary* Power may pretend to extend in that Case, all these *Stratford* make nothing to the purpose for Justification of an Exclusion for matter of *Religion*.

For had those *Parliamentary* Proceedings been a *Warrent* or *Precedent* for any such Exclusion, never was a more urgent Necessity than in *Queen Mary's* Reign, of laying hold of such a *Precedent*. For considering the State of *Religion* in her Time, when looking back to the two last King's Reigns, so formidable a Progress had the *Protestant* Persuasion made, and the Inclinations of the People leaned so much towards the *Reformation*, that the very *Change* of the Prince was enough to turn the *whole Balance*; and therefore all her *papish* Measures were under a manifest motive of being drawn to pieces under a *Protestant* Successor, and that Successor was notoriously foreseen in her Sister *Elizabeth*, so much that *Bishop Gardiner* (speaking of her) could say, *that their burning of Protestants was only vainly cutting off the Branches, whilst the Root will still alive*. Yet nevertheless it was so far from entering the Breasts of a *papish* Successor and a *papish* Parliament to exclude a *Protestant Heir*, that *Dr. Bingham* in his *Abridgement* of the *Reformation*, Book the 3d. page 225. lays as follows. *A Bill was brought into Parliament confirming the Letters Patents which the Queen had granted, or might grant. This related to the Foundations of Religious Houses; but only Coxly opposed this, and insinuated, that perhaps the Queen intended to dispose of the Crown in prejudice of the Right Heir; at which the House expressed so great a Dislike, as shew'd they would not have it so much as imagined, that Lady Elizabeth could be excluded. He had a publick Reprehension given him for insinuating a Thing so much to the Queen's Dishonour.*

Now notwithstanding here was a Queen so Zealous for Popery, and a Parliament so officiously forward in Establishing of it, that they gave their Queen possibly one of the most ample Royalties that ever Parliament lodged in the Prerogatives, viz. the confirming indefinitely all Letters Patents that the Sovereign either had, or might grant; yet still this very Parliament utterly abhorred even the *Imagination* of so infamous a Proposition as an Exclusion Bill: nor did the Bigotted Queen herself ever debase her self so low as to make use of this Act of Parliament, or any part of her Prerogative for so dishonourable a purpose as the Prejudice of her Sister's Successor.

Now to compare Cases. If both a *papish* Prince and a *papish* Parliament detested the Exclusion of a *protestant* Successor, though in so threatening a Juncture, and so truly an *Impending* Danger to their Religion from that Succession, and that too, when her Parliaments had declared the *Divorce* of *Queen Katherine*, *Queen Mary's* Mother, unlawful; and consequently might have foreclosed the Right of *Elizabeth* under the most specious Pretext even of *Illegitimacy* it self. On the contrary, why should a *protestant* Monarch and a *protestant* Parliament now Strain Honour and Consciences beyond the very *Papists* themselves, and exclude a *Royal Heir* upon Presumption of being a *papist*, though with never so undoubted a Right, and above all pretensions of Scruple or Dispute, and that under little, or indeed no Danger to our Religion at all, a Religion not only so invincibly Fortified with so many strong *Bulwarks* of Law, but likewise by that most Impregnable of all *Bulwarks*,

Deferdit Numerus junctaque umbra Phalanges.

The almost Totality of the Nation (comparatively speaking) against so feeble and scattered a Remnant of *Papists*, and so universal an *Odium* of Popery.

I shall not think it worth my while to make much Reply to that part of the Character that treats upon *Passive* Obedience, and so boldly justifies the taking up Arms against an Oppressing Monarch. 'Tis enough that *Great Point* of our *Christianity* has been the Subject of Nobler Pens, and therefore the discussing it is a province above me. I shall only give the Reader this Query. If the *Great Lord* of our *Salvation* could enjoy the turning of the other Cheek even to Injuries received from our Equals; I would fain know what part of *Christianity* can allow Resistance to God's Anointed? Let it suffice, that all that part of the Character was written by the Direction of the Right Honourable the *Earl of Shaftsbury*, after an Amendment made in the Character by the Advice of that *LOYAL* Peer, bidding me speak more favourably of *Rebellion*.

Thus have you heard, not only all that the *papish* Character, but likewise the popular Fears have urged for the pretended Danger of Popery and Arbitrary power. And I doubt not but all understanding and unbiassed Readers will be fully satisfied of the unreasonableness of that *Epidemical* Foulness that has so long infected the Head and Brains of the Short-sighted populace through those *Scarecrows*. I shall only now give the Reader his last Farewell of the *papish* Character in the Concluding Paragraph of that Pamphlet.

After that whole Libel by a *Tautological* sort of *Rhetorick*, a great many accumulated Words, but especially gay *Allegories*, has over and over again drawn a *papish* Successor only in so many

Several Disguises; as one while making him a *Spaniard* his *King*, and then his three Kingdoms are in one General Conflagration: another time an *Alexander* in his *Wings*, and then *honest protestant* he's in the Prophet *Childe's* *Dress*, and then the poor Protestants wear the *lory Birds* and four legged Beasts that *God* at his *Month* with their *Labels* on their *Heads*, *Wings*, *Legs*, and *Tails*. In another place, instead of *Pater patric*, he's nothing but a downright *Lapdog*, and then we are only *Sheep and Lambs*. *Cum multis aliis*, &c. In short, having danced him through all the Elements, *Character* has all the way brought us to universal and inevitable Destruction, and Enslaved both Us and our posterity, till the Admission of a popish Successor at last is no less than a Plot of *GOD* himself to scourge a Nation, and make three Kingdoms miserable; a Design formed by the Irresistable Decree of Heaven, either for our Sins, or what Cause, to us self best known, to lay a *Curse* on this Country in Ruine, &c. After all this, no sooner is this Ruinous Doom pronounced, but the *Character* immediately proceeds, in *hoc verbo*, *nam* notwithstanding we have had a long and formidable Progress of a popish *Plot*, we must not conclude, that 'tis only the poor distressed Protestants that shall feel the Smart, and stand the Mark of Slavery and Martyrdom. A popish King upon his dearest Darling *Favourites*, as for Instance, if after this King's Reign, steps up a *protestant Prince* (for surely the whole Royal Blood must not all follow his Majesty, and degenerate in *secula seculorum*), then what becomes of the popish Interest in the next Generation; and all that flourish in *Parry*, whom either the Witchcrafts of *Rome*, or the Contagion of *Royal* *Extremities* has much up for Ruine. 'Tis the greatest Toy of the next King's Reign, to make those *protestant* Tools that were *Sanctus* but yesterday, are now *crush*'s and dash't to pieces.

Now in the Name of *Blunder*, *Egregious*, here's *Richard* and *Baxter* to the highest of Perfection. For here's the whole foregoing Design of the *Character* quash'd in this one last blow. For if really all the popish and Arbitrary Movements and Acquisitions of a *Romish Prince* (as the *Character* is left as *being*, which indeed by Chance is the very Oracle of the Pamphlet) will be totally crush'd and destroyed under the next protestant Sovereign; and all his popish *Tools* and *Partizans*, nay, the whole *Romish Cause* it self given up to the protestant *Justice* and *Revenge*, that shall crush them to pieces; so that in perfect Contradiction, instead of *intolerable Slavery*, universal protestant Ruine, *Temporary Flourishing of Popery*, and so far from a real protestant Suppression, either by *Persecution* or *Massacres*, or the Devil knows what, that we shall be strong enough to rise up under the next protestant Heir, and to pluck up and demolish even *Rome* and *Foundation* all the preceding *Batteries* and *Machinations* against our Religion and Liberties, whilst the *True King* lies in *line*, not on the *Crush*, certainly we lie under no danger of a popish Successors ever attempting that irregular popish *Achievement*, and setting up that *Shortish* Arbitrary popish *Dragon*, which, as has been proved before, and is even confess'd here, will be of so calamitous a Consequence to the Interest and Safety even of his whole *Parry* and Religion.

You see, Reader, what *Incoherence*, *Contradictions*, and indeed *Impossibilities* the popish *Character* is fraught with, and what notorious *Stuff* that is that *Revenge* and *Malice* obtrudes upon Mankind, where popery is the *Theme*.

But truly 'tis to be consider'd, that that Pamphlet was written and publish'd, not for the Instruction of the *Seven Wise Men*, but of the *seven thousand* *ill-natured* *Knaves*, and the *seventy thousand* *credulous*, *unreasoning* *Fools* of that Age. (the *REPRESENTATIVE* *Patrons*, to whom that Libel was Dedicated, not excepted from the Number.) that would have swallow'd every Syllable of it, had it been ten times more lewdly ridiculous than 'twas.

Now, as not only the *Character*, but the unpondered and groundless Apprehensions of Men, have so dreadfully predicted such a terrible bloody Revolution under a popish Successor, without one *Vote* of proving or examining how that wondrous Change is possible to come to pass; that the Reader may not be surprized at that weak sort of arguing in the one, and that headlong Credulity in the other, 'tis remarkable, that not one Pen that ever wrote upon Popery and Arbitrary introduced into England, are not in *pass*, those Essential Circumstances are always *subter'd* over *sacras*, *Popes* and *Devils*, &c. And a Declamatory Discant upon those *Tragical Heads*, are ever the whole Contents of the Chapter; and whilst the peoples Fears are set a tingling by this sort of *Dis* and *Gibberish*, they are babled out of their Senses, and transported into *Frenzy* it self without looking farther, or searching deeper for the Grounds of their Fears. For Example, let us trace up *Libels* in the late blest *Marry's* Reign (for there were popish *Character Writers* in those Days too, though in other Names) in all the *Licentiousness* of that Villanous Age, and the highest *Encouragement* of *Rebellious* *Senates*, there were neither those *Pens* nor *Tongues* within the

the Parliament House, or without it, that could ever go farther than to a bare general *Allegation* and *Denial* of Popery and Arbitrary Power; for in all the hideous Roarings against popish Counsellors (as 'tis not the *Councillors*, but the *Council* put in *Execution* that can hurt us) was there any Man of them all that did, or indeed, pretended to particularize those popish Counsellors, or form the least Draught of any Dangerous popish Machinations whatever under the least probability of making our *Laws*, *Liberties*, or *Religion*.

'Tis true, there were strange and wondrous popish Intentions represented at work, but about doing of what. The Devil a word they inform us. Not all the Republick Rhetorick, nor all the Eloquence even of counterfeit Fears and Jealousies could lay down one tolerable Demonstration of the fatal Compositions of those popish Fireballs those Incendiaries were to use, or the Combustibility of what they were to set on Fire. Nay, those very Devils that had Impudence enough, not only to murder the best of Kings, but to bring him to a Scaffold, with a Solemn Pageantry of Justice, were nevertheless so far from the Confidence of pretending the popish Strength or Numbers in England to have the least Shadow of Ability to erect their Romish Altars, and subvert the Protestant Religion; that to carry on the popular Fears by that Forged Shame of Popery, and give Body and Bulk to the Goggon, they were forced to help out one dam'd Imposture by a Greater, and bring in the very Church of England for Popish and Antichristian to join in the Plot. Nor were our later true Protestant Rome-dreaders much short of the same Artifice, to crutch up the same Cripple.

Nay, for want of any Substantial Pretext of the Introduction of any of the Real Fundamental Superstitions of Rome, they were put to the wretched Shift of making the harmless Book of Sports, licensed by Bishop Laud, and an after-Service Game at Coys or Stool-Ball, no less than all over Rome and Antichrist; yes, and to push the Jest a little farther, the old Kings tolerating half a score of Priests (in Indulgence to his Queen) to wear the Habit of their Order, though in Reality an Object more for the Hurting of Boys, than the Converting of Men, was screwed up to no less than a Plot upon the whole Reformation.

Now, as the Characterizing of such a Tyrannick popish Successour in England, is but Mounting that Chimerical Jehu in the Chariot where neither his Horses can move him, nor the Ground will bear him; and all the Pretensions of Fears from Popery are only Suppositions and Delusives; nay, and considering that those most violent Assertors of Romish Dangers in that very Age, when they had this Advantage to help out, viz. To alledge the Old King was a Papist in Disguise; by which Villanous Supposition they had ten times a fairer Field for the pretended Introduction of Popery than can be under a Usible popish Prince; could nevertheless urge so little to the purpose, and so weakly support the Cause of such Fears. The Contradictions, Noise, Rumble and Nonsense in the Character on the worse side of the Hedge, are a little more Excusable.

Having (I may with Confidence say) fully answered and confuted all Appearances or Suppositions of Danger from a Popish Successour; yet as the Minds of some People are so strangely possess'd and infatuated with those Brainsick Fancies, and Visionary Specters of Popery and Slavery, that scarce the most apparent Truth, the most substantial Reason, nor Oracles, nay, nor Angels from Heaven could clear or Disspell. I shall therefore go one Step further, and to dissipate all Storms or Clouds whatever from Romewards impending, plainly and absolutely convince them, that whatever Scruples may yet remain unsatisfy'd; at this present day there is not the least Prospect or Idea of any such Threatning Successour in the present Royal Line of England.

For though that Illustrious Prince, whom the Malice of Ambitionarches and Associating Traytors, and the Insolence of a Pack of Seditious and Confederate Commons, like the old Sons of Earth, have level'd their spiteful, though feeble Vengeance at; though that great Insur'd Prince, I say, through the false Mirror of those Anarchical Brouthens has been villainously rendred almost the only Object of the greatest part of the popular Jealousies, as the intended Underminer of our Laws, Religion and Liberties; I shall unanswerably demonstrate the utter Impossibility of that glorious Prince's ever being that Man, or debasing himself so much, as to entertain the least Thought that way, be his Religion what ever it will.

For supposing he were really a Convert to the Romish Persuasion, what Pillar is that Prince likely to make to the Romish Cause? For if he be that Convert, either the Pope believes a popish Heir of England Capable of setting up the Romish Religion, or not capable of doing it.

If capable, as that's the present Point; Then undoubtedly (which is but a reasonable Conclusion) he has left no Room nor Industry unmanaged to Advant or Advantage the Popish Interest by such a Convert as an Heir of the English Crown. And if so, the only Policy, or indeed the only possible Means of favouring the least Romish Hopes whatever, had been to have used the utmost Papal Authority for enjoining and perswading him, not only to have kept himself wholly undiscoverd, but likewise wholly unsuspected to the Kingdom by any Absenting from our Communion, or any other Imaginary Symtome of such a Conversion.

For as all the greatest of Inconveniencies and Misfortunes have attended the whole popish Party upon the mere Supposition of such a Conversion; and that only founded on the foremention'd Occasion of Suspicion. Witness the removing all Papists whatever from all Offices of Trust in the whole Kingdom, from all Seats, either in State Administration or Parliaments by the present Protestant Legislature, wholly created upon that Suspicion; by Force of which there is not the least Admission of a Papist into any Place of Power in the Government, except by taking of the Protestant Sacrament,

and entering into a Solemn Oath against the popish Religion, and subscribing to a Renowned Abjuration, even of the greatest and most illustrious Princes of their Faith as *Superstition* and *Idolatry*, and so by the most impudent *pretence* of *Perjury*, and setting the notorious Brand upon themselves of that sordid and scandalous *Reputation* of their very Religion, which the poorest *Sould* *Page* that ever worship'd but *Garlick* and *Onions* would blush at.

Besides all this weeding out of the popish Party from all Authority and Power, being no small *Blow* to their Interest under so weak a Member of that Persuasion in England. There is not any one *Calamity* that for these seven last years has befallen the whole popish Party, that is not entirely owing almost wholly to this *Suspicion*.

And therefore as all the *Ill* *Consequences* (or *Losses*) attending them, are really no more than the *Pope* and all his *Confessors* could in common *Reason* expect from a Nation so extravagantly jealous of *Popery*; whilst of old *Experiences* might have remembr'd him how dangerous and destructive even a less *Intimation* of *Popish* Inclinations had been; nothing was more indiscreet (I mean for the popish Interest) in a *Popish* Prince, than *all* means of raising such *Suspicion*; nay, possibly even for his own *Security* to the *State*.

'Tis true, some ridiculous People have foolishly objected, That the Deserting of our *Communication* was for the *Advantage* of their *Cause*; it being so, in that it setting up the *Standard* of *Popery* to call all Hearts and Hands together; whereas otherwise the *Romish* had been kept in Ignorance of the *Champion* God had rais'd for their *Defiance*; and thereby might have negle'd the glorious Opportunity that offer'd it self. — Now in the Name of *Dulness*, if any such Deliverance were imaginable, or any Success to the *Romish* Cause whatever, either sooner or later, could be expected from such a *Course*; or lastly, if the *Confidence* or *Influence* of that *Heretic* Prince were possible to be wrought upon to stoop to so ignoble a *Design*, as any *unwarrantable* *Popish* Assistance; Why must the *Papists* be kept in Ignorance of his being one of them, if he were for without some kind of publick Declaration: when 'tis notoriously known to all the sensible part of *Mankind*, what Advantages of *Intelligence* and *Correspondence* the *Papists* have above all Religions in the World, when their *Princes* are by the very Duty of their *Order*, the greatest *Spyes* upon *Christendom*, whilst the privatest Affairs and Secrets of *Families*, *Courts*, and *Kingdoms* through all *Europe*, from hand to hand, and from Superior to Superior of them, are convey'd to the *Pope* himself, from those that considering this So that take the whole Matter together with this Advantage of *Communication* even under *Confession* it self on the one side, and the foremention'd Dangers from a *National* *Disaffection* on the other, as I said before, whatever Discovery might have been requisite to their *own* *Prudence*, the highest Policy of *Rome* had been to have concealed the very Suspicion of it from the *Protestants*; more especially, if they had had any such Thing as a *King-killing* Plot in hand, or the least part of the *Sabotage* or *Conspiracy* upon the Anvil. For then they might have made use of *Russians*, or *Screw'd* *Gunners*, and as *Dugdale* swears, have laid the King's Murder upon the *Presbyterians*, or any other of the scatter'd Churches, with ten times more ease; and have hasten'd the Mounting of a *South* *Succession* with more Facility into the Royal Seat.

And therefore as nothing can be a plainer or greater *Obstacle* to all *Popish* Designs whatever than this *Conduct* in the present *Heir* of *England*, if he be a *Romish*, and they had an Expectation of any considerable Advantage to their Religion from his being one; undoubtedly there has been no *Oratory* wanting to induce him to so necessary and so *Vertue* a *Dignity*, as being the most important Step of their *Cause*. But maugre all the Necessity of such a Compliance, and all the *Romish* Interest depending thereupon, notwithstanding the *papal* Power of a *Dispensation* in that *Case*, and all the *Advantages* that may have been used to that purpose: nothing is more visible than his *Indiscretion* and *Imprudence* to so dishonourable a *Complaisance* as playing the *Hypocrite*, how dispensable, soever in that *Church*, or how advantageous soever to his own Circumstances.

Now I appeal to all *Mankind* what least *Apprehension* of *Popish* Danger, or what humane possibility of that very Prince ever being that so much dreaded *Romish* Instrument for arbitrary *Popish* Tyranny, through the most execrable Violation of the most sacred *Royal* *Trust*, the most flagitious of *Popery* in the Breach of a solemn *Coronation* Oath, to trample our *Laws*, *Religion*, and *Liberties* to pieces: that he's already render'd himself so incapable of *dissembling*, but with one poor piece of *Hypocrisy* though against the highest Interest of *Rome*, though to the wakening of all the sleeping *Spirits* against *Rome*, to the raising of *Tests*, *Oaths*, and *Sacraments*; and thereby not only excluding the Sons of *Rome* from all Honours, *Trusts*, and *Employments*, but likewise exposing them to the *Daily* *Severity* and *Persecution* of the *Laws*, nay, and very near to the shaking of his own *Hereditary* *Succession* to an Imperial Crown.

Now (I say) if this very Prince (upon Presumption of that *Church*) be nevertheless a Person of those rigid Principles of Honour and Conscience, that he durst not so much as digest so inconsiderable a piece of *Disimulation*, though for the highest and most Important Service to himself and his whole Church; how much less shall he ever condescend to the Ignominious and *Indelible* *Stain* of downright *Perjury*, and launch into all the Barbarities and Outrages of *Tyranny* and *Atrociousness* and all this too, as has been plainly proved before, with very little or none, at least no reasonable Hope, of doing himself or his Church any Service at all.

Besides, as 'tis utterly impossible either for *Pope* or *Papists*, even with the most *Romish* Assurance and Confidence of Success, ever to hope for a National Conversion, or a *Romish* Establishment in *Our* *Isle*; inasmuch that 'tis not a single *Popish* Successor, but a Line of *Popish* Successors, that can be so

much as suppos'd capable of going through with so difficult an Undertaking: what least Shadow of any such Intention can we imagine from this Royal *Heir*, when he has not only bred up his next Immediate *Heirs*, his Children in the Protestant Religion, but likewise lodg'd them in the Bosoms of those very Protestant Princes, as far from the least Inclination towards Rome, or a *Leak* that way, as the whole Choice of *Chaplains* could have pick'd out. So that upon the Issue of the whole Matter, how contrary to common Sense is it, to think that very Prince either is, or can be so stupidly inform'd, as ever to Embark in so hazardous an Achievement, which (were he Crown'd to-morrow) with his years upon his back, he begins but with the latter part of a Life, and which the length of a Queen Elizabeth's Reign could never finish. And all this so preposterously too, as to be for building that Romish Interest with one hand, which he has so palpably destroy'd with the other.

Considering then, (as has been fully proved before,) that Popery in the present State of England is something like the vulgar Tradition of the Basilisk, it must either look its safety Dead, or we shall look that so. For there's no Medium in the Case, between Countering or Dying; who in his right wits can imagine this Prince will ever begin what he himself before hand has taken Care shall never be finish'd. And if not finish'd, will he be put into a ten times worse Condition than if never begun. And therefore not only his most Dutiful will be our Security, it being impossible that any thing that has one Spark of Glory will ever engage in a Cause under such Circumstances of Defeat: but likewise supposing even the utmost Suggestions true; under such an Impossibility of Greeting the Work, the greater the Zeal, the more Inoffensive the Zealot: since all Irregular exorbitant Ferments of Popery will but hatch Scorpions and venom Snakes for its own Destruction: the greater the Tenderness for his own Party and Religion, the greater the Security of ours.

Moreover the Character positively lays down this Maxim. That the Papists doom all out of their own Church to certain Damnation: and on that Foundation all their Bloody Injustices are built, as thinking no Cruelty too severe, nor any Tyranny too languinary; but on the contrary, the most barbarous Gospel Propagation the greatest Obligation of their Religion. And therefore it tells you, a Popish Successor will never believe he can do his Subjects an Injustice in that very Thing in which he does God Service, or that he injures Us when he does our Souls right. And that therefore all the threatened Gallies, Bonfires and Executions, &c. from the beginning to the end of the whole Character, flow from no other Source.

Now if this be truly the Tenet of a Romanist, and all our horrible dangers proceed from that *Heretic*, either our present Royal *Heir* must be no Romanist at all; or if he be one, however he absolutely dissent from Rome in that particular *Point* of Principle. For if such were his Faith, and such his Principles, why has he so wilfully and so egregiously contributed to his own Children's Damnation, not only in their severest Protestant Education, but likewise in that additional Strengthening that Damnable Persuasion by such fatal Admixture, whereby he has not only endanger'd their Souls and living in that Erroneous Faith, but likewise secur'd the Increase and Establishment of that most dangerous Religion in likelihood by them and their heirs to the End of the World: and consequently contributed to the Damnation of succeeding Heretical Generations in *Secula seculum*.

I have only one thing more to add for the Safety of our Religion. There is not in the World that Prince in his Nature more grateful for Services and Obligations received, or a firmer and more unalterable Friend than himself. And as the Church, and only the Church of England has truly and vigorously asserted the Justice and Duty of maintaining his unforfeitable Succession and Inviolable Birthright, and has stood ALONE in the Gap against all the whole Crowd of his Enemies; we may confidently assure our selves, that if ever 'tis Heaven's pleasure he should be our Sovereign, that all such kind and signally good Offices will never be ungratefully requited by the most Generous of Mankind.

I shall only conclude; under this manifest Security of our Religion and Government on all hands, They that shall have Impudence enough (no Person nor Quality, in any Station whatever excepted) to persecute that Prince under the Pretence of Fear, are undoubtedly planting the same Batteries against three Kingdoms that were rais'd in his Royal Father's Reign; and a Bill of Exclusion must truly carry the Design of all the old Remonstrances, Ordinances, Covenants, &c. with the Soul of a Cook, a Bradshaw, and a Cromwell at the Bottom on't: and all the Senate-House Church-proppers under that Vizard, are only Establishing Religion with the same Brand in their Hearts that Cain built Cities. And I doubt not but the Wisdom and Loyalty of Succeeding Times will regain Sense enough to countermine all such Villany, and redeem the yet unrecovered Honour of England by shaming such a Second Imposture from the World.

And now to draw to a Period, I have only this Warning to give to the great Stricklers against Popery and Arbitrary Power, to have a Care that they Themselves do not bring in what they so Zealously endeavour to keep Out. For if Popery and Arbitrary Power shall ever get Footing in England by a Popish Successor, it can only be then, when by Unlawful Exclusions, and Rebellious Associations against him, they shall put him upon cutting his way to his Throne by his Sword, and consequently give him the Occasion, both by Foreign and Domestick Assistance, of gaining that Right by Conquest which is denyed him to assume in Peace; and thereby enable him by the Power and Right of a Conquerour, to Abolish what Laws, and Establish what Government he pleases, without either straining his Honour or Privileges. And so shall the Irregular Designs of defending our Religion and Li-

be the only means of destroying them. And that this will be the undoubted Success of firm and *unswerving* Opposition of the Royal Party, let all such Turbulent Spirits (for their Com-
fort) consider that the World is much *winded* of late, and whatever Prosperity attended their victo-
rious Father's *Rebellious Days*, the old *Cheer* will not pass altogether so gloriously a *second* time; and the
Depoling of Monarchs will be, in all reasonable prospect, a *rougher* piece of Work in the *Age* than the
late. For Men's Eyes and Understandings begin to be more *Enlighten'd*, and the *Odds* (thanks be to
Heaven) is on the *Loyal Side*.

However as a Caution to those *unhappy* People that may be seduced by the false *Suggestions* of *Republican* Conspirators under the plausible Pretence of *Liberty* and *Religion*, to engage in so impious a *Cause*. Besides the Breach of their *Christianity* and Hazard of their *Souls* in so wicked an *Undertaking*; they are link'd into that very *Rebellion* in which they are certain of making themselves *Miserable*, not only if they are *Subdu'd*, but likewise if they *Conquer* too. For as I said before, there's not only a certain *Slavery* attends their *Defeat*, the Impudence of such *flagitious Treason* being it self alone a sufficient *Provocation* of *Tyranny*, enough to exasperate even the *fiercest* and *best* *Temper'd* *Princes* into a Spirit of *Crucity*, and consequently, to make him impose that *Tale* upon their *Rebellious* *Necks* which they have but too justly deserved; and so put him upon doing what otherwise had never enter'd so much as into his *Soul* to *Think*. So on the other side, supposing their *Strength* and *Fortune* would prove so great and successful as should answer their most *Flattering* *Hopes*; and that it would be possible for them to gain that *Absolute* *Triumph* o're the *Royal Cause*, as to reach, not only the *Crown*, but also the *Wreath* that wears it: yet all this while what have they done, but through all the *gaping Wounds* of their poor *Bleeding* *Country*, through all the *Horror* and *Miseries* of a barbarous *Civil War*, *deposed* and *butcher'd* One *Imaginary Tyrant* to set up possibly *five hundred* *Real Ones*.

For as all *Victories* Rebellion ends in *Anarchy* and *Confusion*, and all the *Conquests*, *Acquisitions*, and *Trospies* devolve into the Possession of the greatest *Ringleaders* of the *Conspiracy*, whilst the *popular* *Wishes*, the *working* *Tools* that set them up, have little or no share in the *Booty*. What have the deluded Wretches gain'd by the *Change*, but only avoided a lesser *Scylla*, to run into a greater *Charybdis*, enslav'd themselves and their Posterity to a *Brood* of *Tyrants*, to escape a single one. A worse Subjection than that they fear'd and fought against. A *Republican Tyranny* being so much more intolerable than a *Monarchical* One can be, as this has but the *Ambition* of *One* man to satisfy, and the other of *Hundreds*, whilst the particular *Pride* and *Avarice* of each respective *Dignified* Rebel in Power, has so many *seperate* sinister *Interests* and *Appetites* to gratify, and thereby our *Estates* and *Patrimony* continually to be squeez'd and drain'd not only for the Chargeable Support of *Standing* *Armies* that must uphold this *Anarchical* Constitution, but likewise be expos'd to the insatiate *Gorge* of every *State-Cormorant* amongst them. A Tyranny so much more unsupportable than that of a *Crown'd Head*, as there are so many of them to conspire and set all the the greatest of *Influences* and *Injustices*, and so many to dilute the blame of it. A Tyranny yet so much more execrable still as every *Low-born* *Villain* amongst them dare stoop to all those *dishonourable*, *abject*, and *forlorn* *Deeds*, that *IMPERIAL* *Blasphemy* and *ROYAL* *Whore* would stagger at.

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